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## CANAVAN PAPERS

BY

M. J. CANAVAN

## VOLUME II

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An account of the commencement of Hostilities between GREAT BRITAIN and AMERICA, in the Province of the MASSACHUSETTS-BAY. By the Reverend Mr. WILLIAM GORDON of ROXBURY, in a Letter to a Gentleman in ENGLAND, dated May 17, 1775.

My dear Sir: I shall now give you a letter upon publick affairs. This Colony, judging itself possessed of an undoubted right to the chartered privileges which had been granted by our glorious deliverer, King William the Third, and finding that the Continent was roused by the measures and principles of Administration, was determined upon providing the necessary requisites for self-defence, in case there should be an attempt to support the late unconstitutional Acts by the point of the sword, and upon making that resistance which the laws of God and nature justified, and the circumstances of the people would admit, and so to leave it with the righteous Judge of the world to settle the dispute. Accordingly, the Provincial Congress, substituted by the inhabitants in lieu of the General Assembly, which could not convene but by the call of the Governour, prepared a quantity of stores for the service of an army, whenever the same might be brought into the field. These stores were deposited in various places; many of them at Concord, about twenty miles from Charlestown, which lies on the other side of the river, opposite to Boston, answering to Southwark, but without the advantage of a bridge. It was apprehended by numbers, from the attempt made to surprise some cannon at Salem on the 26th February, that there would be something of the like kind in other places; and many were uneasy, after the resolutions of the Parliament were known, that any quantity of stores was within so small a distance of Boston, while there was no regular force established for the defence of them. Several were desirous of raising an army instantly upon hearing what had been determined at home; but it was judged best upon







the whole not to do it, as that step might be immediately construed to the disadvantage of the Colony by the enemies of it, and might not meet with the unanimous approbation of the Continental Congress.

Here I must break off for a few minutes to inform you, by way of episode, that on the 30th of March, the Governor ordered out about eleven hundred men to parade it for the distance of five miles, to Jamaica Plains, and so round by the way of Dorchester back again; in performing which military exploit, they did considerable damage to the stone fences, which occasioned a Committee's being formed, and waiting upon the Provincial Congress, then at Concord, on the point of adjourning, which prevented their adjournment, and lengthened out the session till the news of what Parliament had done reached them on April 2nd, by a vessel from Falmouth, which brought the account before the Governor had received his despatches, so that obnoxious persons took the advantage of withdrawing from Boston, or keeping away, that they might not be caught by the General, were orders for that purpose given him from home, as there is much reason to suppose was the case, from a hint in an intercepted letter of Mr. Mauduit's to Commissioner Mallowell, and from subsequent intelligence. The Tories had been for a long while filling the officers and soldiers with the idea, that the Yankees would not fight, but would certainly run for it, whenever there was the appearance of hostilities on the part of the Regulars. They had repeated the story so often, that they themselves really believed it, and the military were persuaded to think the same in general, so that they held the country people in the utmost contempt. The officers had discovered, especially since the warlike feat of tarring and feathering, a disposition to quarrel, and to provoke the people to begin, that they might have some colour for hostilities. This cast of mind was much increased upon the news of what Parliament had resolved upon; the people, however, bore insults patiently, being determined that they would not be the aggressors.

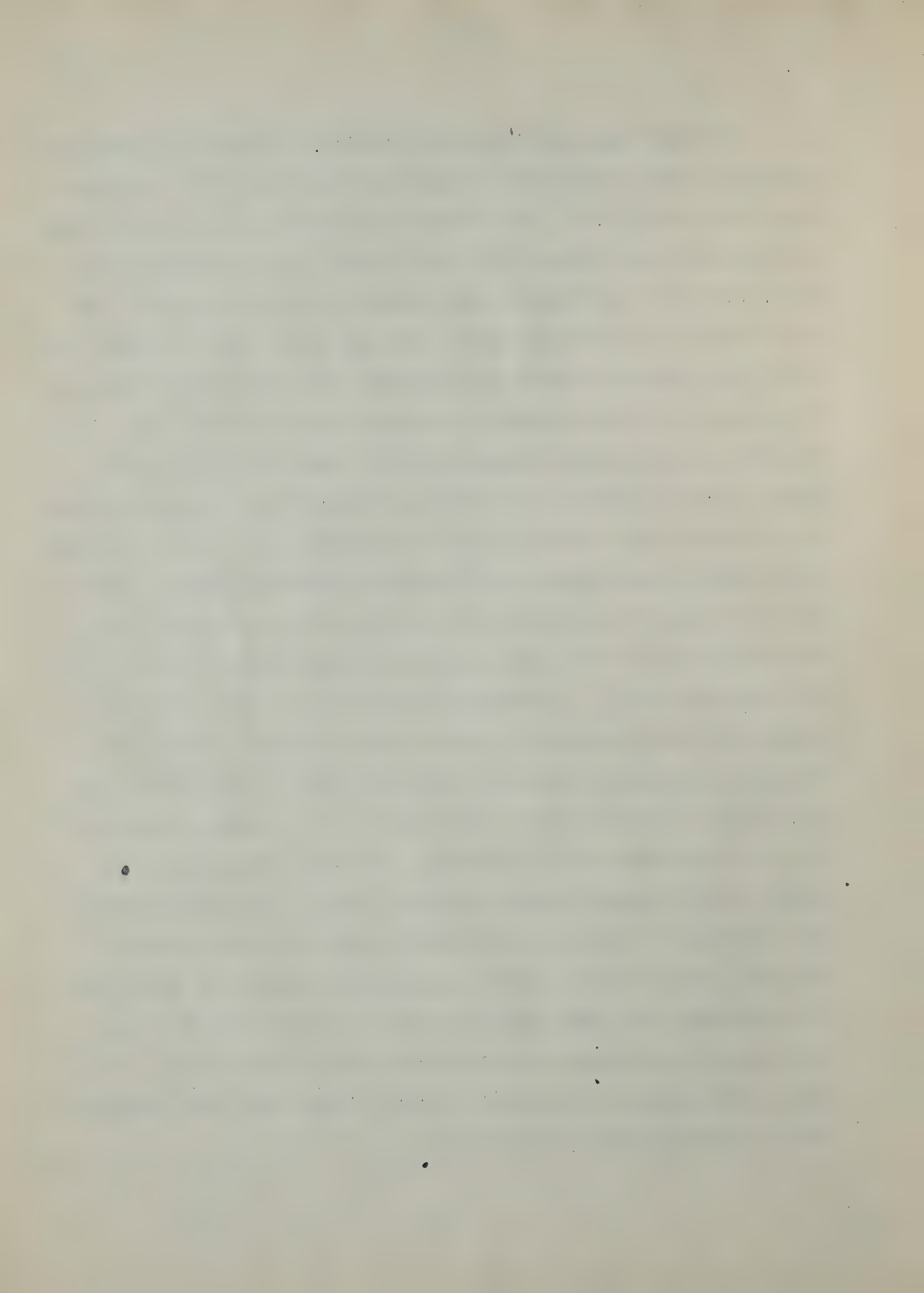






At length the General fixed upon sending a detachment to Concord, to destroy the stores, having been, I apprehend, worried into it by the native Tories that were about him, and confirmed in his design by the opinion of his officers, about ten of whom, on the 18th of April, passed over Charlestown Ferry, and by the neck through Roxbury, armed with swords and pistols, and placed themselves on different parts of the road in the night to prevent all intelligence, and the country's being alarmed; they stopped various persons, threatening to blow their brains out, ordering them to dismount, etc., The Grenadier and Light-Infantry Companies had been taken off duty some days, under pretence of learning a new exercise, which made the Bostonians jealous; one and another were confirmed in their suspicions by what they saw and heard on the 18th, so that expresses were forwarded to alarm the country, some of whom were secured by the officers on the road; the last had not got out of Town more than about five minutes, ere the order arrived to stop all persons from leaving the Town. An alarm was spread in many places, (to some the number of officers on the road to Concord proved an alarm,) however, as there had been repeated false ones, the country was at a loss what to judge. On the first of the night, when it was very dark, the detachment, consisting of all the Grenadiers and Light-Infantry, the flower of the army, to the amount of eight hundred or better, officers included, the companies having been filled up, and several of the inimical torified natives, repaired to the boats, and got into them just as the moon rose, crossed the water, landed on Cambridge side, took through a private way to avoid discovery, and therefore had to go through some places up to their thighs in water. They made a quick march of it to Lexington, about thirteen miles from Charlestown and got there by half an hour after four.







Here I must pause again, to acquaint you that in the morning of the 19th, before we had breakfasted, between eight and nine, the whole neighborhood was in alarm; the Minute-Men (so called from their having agreed to turn out at a minute's warning) were collecting together; we had an account that the Regulars had killed six of our men at Lexington; the Country was in an uproar; another detachment was coming out of Boston; and I was desired to take care of myself and partner. I concluded that the Brigade was intended to support the Grenadiers and light-Infantry, and to cover their retreat, in which I was not mistaken. The Brigade took out two cannon, the detachment had none. Having sent off my books, which I had finished packing up the day before, conjecturing what was coming on from the moment I had heard of the resolutions of Parliament, though I did not expect it till the reinforcement arrived, we got into our chaise, and went to Dedham. At night we had it confirmed to us that the Regulars had been roughly handled by the Yankees, a term of reproach for the New-Englanders, when applied by the Regulars. The Brigade under Lord Percy marched out, playing, by way of contempt, Yankee Doodle; they were afterwards told, that they had been made to dance to it.

Soon after the affair, knowing what untruths are propagated by each party in matters of this nature, I concluded that I would ride to Concord, inquire for myself, and not rest upon the depositions that might be taken by others. Accordingly I went the last week. The Provincial Congress have taken depositions, which they have forwarded to Great Britain; but the Ministry and pretended friends to Government, will cry them down, as being evidence from party persons and rebels; the like may be objected against the present account, as it will materially contradict what has been published in





Boston, though not expressly, yet as it is commonly supposed, by authority; however, with the impartial world, and those who will not imagine me capable of sacrificing honesty to the old, at present heretical, principles of the Revolution, it may have some weight.

Before Major Pitcairn arrived at Lexington signal guns had been fired, and the bells had been rung to give the alarm; but let not the sound of bells lead you to think of a ring of bells like what you hear in England; for they are only small sized bells, (one in a parish,) just sufficient to notify the people the time for attending worship, etc. Lexington being alarmed, the train band or Militia, and the alarm men (consisting of the aged and others exempted from turning out, excepting upon an alarm,) repaired in general to the common, close in with the meeting-house, the usual place of parade; and there were present when the roll was called over about one hundred and thirty of both, as I was told by Mr. Daniel Harrington, clerk to the company; who further said, that the night being chilly, so as to make it uncomfortable being upon the parade, they having received no certain intelligence of the Regulars being upon their march, and being waiting for the same, the men were dismissed, to appear again at the beat of the drum. Some who lived near went home, others to the publick house at the corner of the common. Upon information being received about half an hour after, that the Troops were not far off, the remains of the company who were at hand collected together, to the amount of about sixty or seventy, by the time the Regulars appeared, but were chiefly in a confused state, only a few of them being drawn up, which accounts for other witnesses making the number less, about thirty. There were present as spectators, about forty more, scarce any of whom had arms. The printed accounts tell us, indeed, that they observed about two hundred armed men. Possibly the intelligence they





had before received had frightened those that gave the account to the General, so that they saw more than double. The said account, which has little truth in it, says, "that Major Pitcairn galloping up to the head of the advanced companies, two officers informed him, that a man (advanced from those that were assembled) had presented his musket, and attempted to shoot them, but the piece flashed in the pan."

The simple truth I take to be this, which I received from one of the prisoners at Concord in free conversation, one James Marr, a native of Aberdeen, in Scotland, of the Fourth Regiment, who was upon the advanced guard, consisting of six, besides a sergeant and corporal: They were met by three men on horseback before they got to the meeting house a good way; an officer bid them stop; to which it was answered, you had better turn back for you shall not enter the Town; when the said three persons rode back again and at some distance one of them offered to fire, but the piece flashed in the pan without going off. I asked Marr whether he could tell if the piece was designed at the soldiers, or to give an alarm; he could not say which. The said Marr further declared, that when they and the others were advanced, Major Pitcairn said to the Lexington Company, (which, by the way, was the only one there,) stop, you rebels! and he supposed that the design was to take away their arms; but upon seeing the Regulars they dispersed, and a firing commenced, but who fired first he could not say. The said Marr, together with Evan Davies of the Twenty-Third, George Cooper of the Twenty-Third, and William McDonald of the Thirty-Eighth, respectively assured me in each other's presence, that being in the room where John Bateman, of the Fifty-Second, was, (he was in an adjoining room, too ill to admit of my conversing with him,) they heard the said Bateman say that the Regulars fired first, and saw him go through the solemnity of confirming the same by an oath on the bible.





Samuel Lee, a private in the Eighteenth Regiment, Royal Irish, acquainted me, that it was the talk among the soldiers that Major Pitcairn fired his pistol, then drew his sword, and ordered them to fire; which agrees with what Levi Harrington, a youth of fourteen last November, told me, that being upon the common, and hearing the Regulars were coming up, he went to the meeting-house, and saw them down in the road, on which he returned to the Lexington Company; that a person on horseback rode round the meeting, and came towards the company that way, said something loud, but could not tell what, rode a little further, then stopped and fired a pistol, which was the first report he heard, then another on horseback fired his pistol; then three or four Regulars fired their guns; upon which, hearing the bullets whistle, he ran off and saw no more of the affair.

Mr. Paul Revere, who was sent express, was taken and detained some time by the officers, being afterwards upon the spot, and finding the Regulars at hand, passed through the Lexington Company with another, having between them a box of papers belonging to Mr. Hancock, and went down a cross road, till there was a house so between him and the company as that he could not see the latter; he told me likewise, that he had not got half a gun-shot from them before the Regulars appeared; that they halted about three seconds; that upon hearing the report of a pistol or gun, he looked round, and saw the smoke in front of the Regulars, our people being out of view because of the house; then the Regulars huzzaed and fired, first two more guns, then the advanced guard, and so the whole body. The bullets flying thick about him and he having nothing to defend himself with, ran into a wood, where he halted, and heard the firing for about a quarter of an hour.

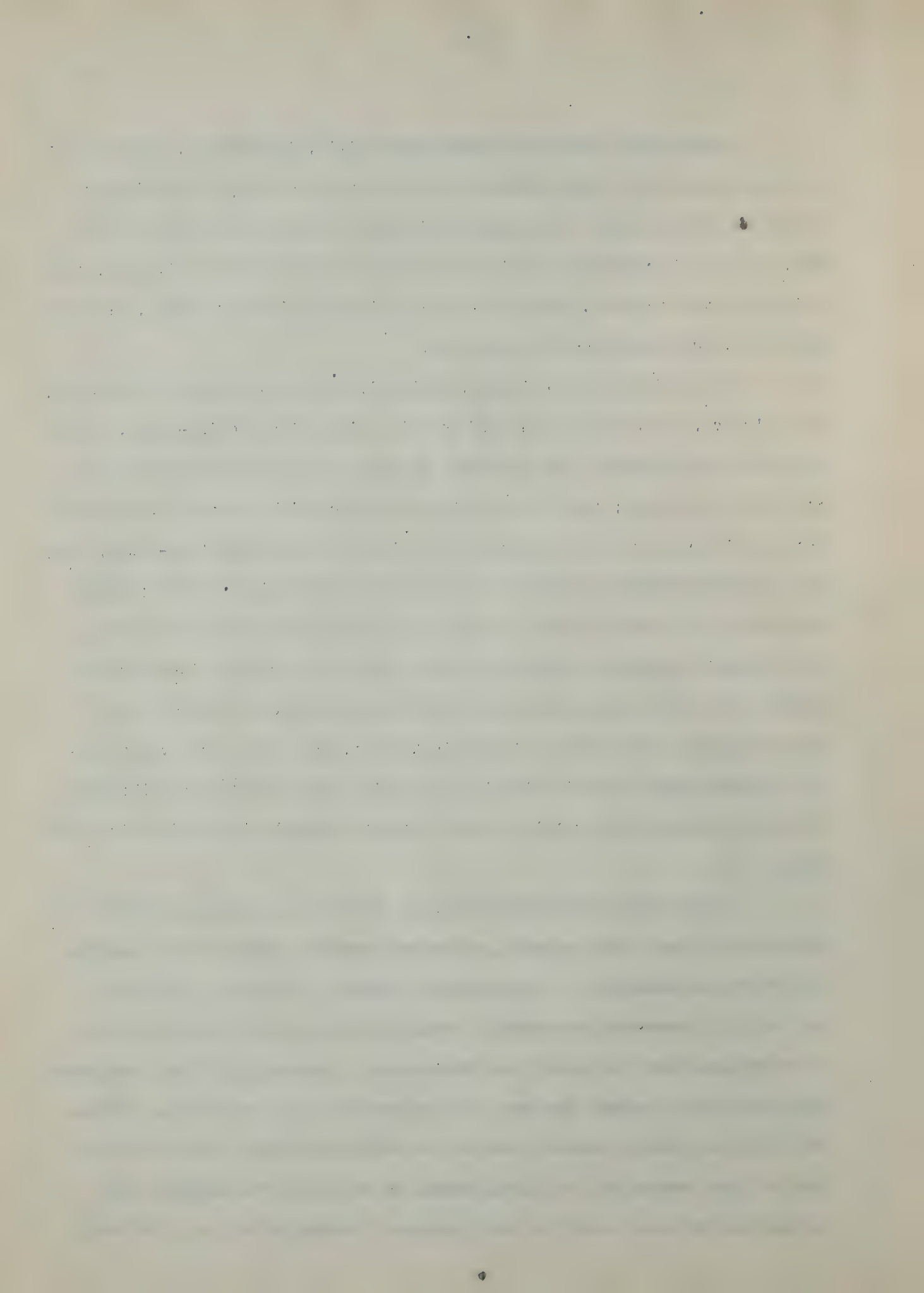




James Brown, one of the Lexington Militia, informed me, that he was upon the common; that two pistols were fired from the party of soldiers towards the Militia-men as they were getting over the wall to be out of the way, and that immediately upon it the soldiers began to fire their guns; that being got over the wall, and seeing the soldiers fire pretty freely, he fired upon them, and some others did the same.

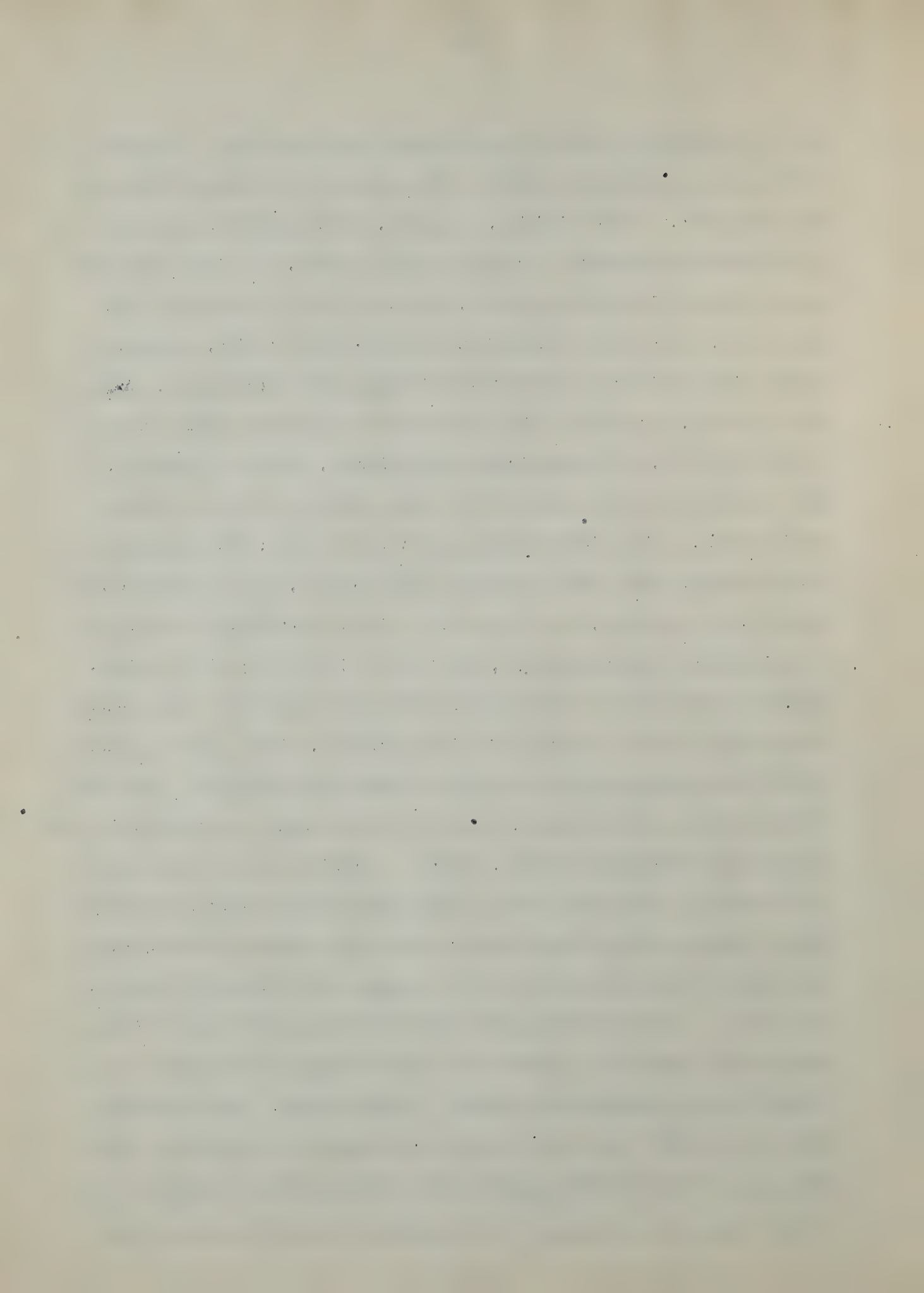
Simon Winship of Lexington, declared, that being upon the road about four o'clock, two miles and an half on this side of the meeting-house, he was stopped by the Regulars, and commanded by some of the officers to dismount, or he was a dead man; that he was obliged to march with the said Troops until he came within about half a quarter of a mile of the said meeting-house, when an officer commanded the Troops to halt, and then to prime and load; which being done, the Troops marched on till they came within a few rods of Captain Parker's Lexington Company, who were partly collected on the place of parade, when said Winship observed an officer at the head of said Troops flourishing his sword round his head in the air, and with a loud voice giving the word fire; the said Winship is positive that there was no discharge of guns on either side, until the word fire was given by the said officer as above.

I shall not trouble you with more particulars, but give you the substance as it lies in my own mind, collected from the persons whom I examined for my own satisfaction. The Lexington Company upon seeing the Troops, and being of themselves so unequal a match for them, were deliberating for a few moments what they should do, when several dispersing of their own heads the Captain soon ordered the rest to disperse for their own safety. Before the order was given, three or four of the regular officers, seeing the company as they came up on the rising ground on this side the meeting, rode forward one or more, round the meeting-house, leaving it on the right hand,





and so came upon them that way; upon coming up one cried out, "you damned rebels, lay down your arms;" another "stop you rebels," a third, "disperse you rebels," etc. Major Pitcairn, I suppose, thinking himself justified by Parliamentary authority to consider them as rebels, perceiving that they did not actually lay down their arms, observing that the generality were getting off, while a few continued in their military position, and apprehending there could be no great hurt in killing a few such Yankees, which might probably, according to the notions that had been instilled into him by the tory party, of the Americans being poltrons, and all the contest, gave the command to fire, then fired his own pistol, and so set the whole affair agoing. The printed account says very different; but whatever the General may have sent home in support of that account, the publick have nothing but bare assertions, and I have such valid evidence of the falsehood of several matters therein contained, that with me it has very little weight. The same account tells us that several shots were fired from a meeting-house on the left, of which I heard not a single syllable, either from the prisoners or others, and the mention of which it would have been almost impossible to have avoided, had it been so, by one or another among the numbers with whom I freely and familiarly conversed. There is a curious note at the bottom of the account, telling us, that notwithstanding the fire from the meeting-house, Colonel Smith and Major Pitcairn, with the greatest difficulty kept the soldiers from forcing into the meeting-house, and putting all those in it to death. Would you not suppose that there was a great number in the meeting-house, while the Regulars were upon the common on the right of it, between that and the Lexington Company? Without doubt. And who do you imagine they were? One Joshua Simonds, who happened to be getting powder there as the Troops arrived; besides whom, I believe there were not two, if so much as one; for by reason of the position of the meeting house, none





would have remained in it through choice but fools and madmen. However, if Colonel Smith and Major Pitcairn's humanity prevented the soldiers putting all those persons to death, their military skill should certainly have made some of them prisoners, and the account should have given us their names. To what I have wrote respecting Major Pitcairn, I am sensible his general character may be objected. But character must not be allowed to overthrow positive evidence when good, and the conclusions fairly deduced therefrom. Besides, since hearing from Mr. Jones in what shameful abusive manner, with oaths and curses, he was treated by the Major at Concord, for shutting the doors of his tavern against him and the Troops; and in order to terrify him to make discoveries of stores; and the manner in which the Major crowed over the two four-and-twenty pounders found in the yard, as mighty acquisition worthy the expedition on which the detachment was employed, I have no such great opinion of the Major's character; though when he found that nothing could be done of any great importance by bullying, blustering, and threatening, he could alter his tone, begin to coax, and offer a reward. It may be said this Jones was a jailer; yes, and such a jailer as I would give credit to, sooner than the generality of those officers that will degrade the British arms, by employing their swords in taking away the rights of a free people, when they ought to be devoted to a good cause only. There were killed at Lexington eight persons--- one Parker of the same name with the Captain of the Company, and two or three more, on the common; the rest on the other side of the walls and fences while dispersing. The soldiers fired at persons who had no arms. Eight hundred of the best British Troops in America having thus nobly vanquished a company of non-resisting Yankees while dispersing, and slaughtering a few of them by way of experiment, marched forward in the greatness of their might to Concord. The Concord people had received the





alarm, and had drawn themselves up in order for defence; upon a messenger's coming and telling them that the Regulars were three times their number, they prudently changed their situation, determining to wait for reinforcements from the neighbouring Towns, which were now alarmed; but as to the vast numbers of armed people seen assembling on all the heights, as related in the account, 'tis mostly fiction. The Concord Company retired over the north bridge, and when strengthened returned to it, with a view of dislodging Captain Laurie, and securing it for themselves. They knew not what had happened at Lexington and therefore orders were given by the commander not to give the first fire. They boldly marched towards it, though not in great numbers, (as told in the account) and were fired upon by the Regulars, by which fire a Captain belonging to Acton was killed, and I think a private. The Reverend Mr. Emerson of Concord, living in the neighbourhood of the bridge, who gave me the account, went near enough to see it, and was nearer the Regulars than the killed. He was very uneasy till he found that the fire was returned, and continued till the Regulars were drove off. Lieutenant Gould, who was at the bridge, and was wounded and taken prisoner, has deposed that their Regulars gave the first fire there, though the printed narrative asserts the contrary; and the soldiers that knew anything of the matter, with whom I conversed, made no scruple of owning the same that Mr. Gould deposed.

After the engagement began, the whole detachment collected together as fast as it could. The narrative tells us that as Captain Parsons returned with his three companies over the bridge, they observed three soldiers on the ground, one of them scalped, his head much mangled, and his ears cut off, though not quite dead; all this is not fiction, though the most is. The Reverend Mr. Emerson informed me how the matter was, with great concern for its having happened. A young fellow coming over the bridge in order to join the





country people, and seeing the soldier wounded and attempting to get up, not being under the feelings of humanity, very barbarously broke his skull, and let out his brains with a small axe, (apprehend of the tomahawk kind,) but as to his being scalped and having his ears cut off, there was nothing in it. The poor object lived an hour or two before he expired. The detachment, when joined by Captain Parsons, made a hasty retreat, finding by woful experience that the Yankees would fight, and that their numbers would be continually increasing. The Regulars were pushed with vigour by the country people, who took the advantage of walls, fences, etc., but those that could get up to engage were not upon equal terms with the Regulars in point of number any part of the day, though the country was collecting together from all quarters and had there been two hours more for it, would probably have cut off both detachment and Brigade, or made them prisoners. The soldiers being obliged to retreat with haste to Lexington, had no time to do any considerable mischief. But a little on this side Lexington Meeting-House where they were met by the Brigade, with cannon, under Lord Percy, the scene changed. The inhabitants had quitted their houses in general upon the road, leaving almost everything behind them, and thinking themselves well off in escaping with their lives. The soldiers burnt in Lexington three houses, one barn and two shops, one of which joined to the house, and a mill-house adjoining to the barn; other houses and buildings were attempted to be burnt, and narrowly escaped. You would have been shocked at the destruction which has been made by the Regulars, as they are mis-called, had you been present with me to have beheld it. Many houses were plundered of everything valuable that could be taken away, and what could not be carried off was destroyed; looking-glasses, pots, pans, etc., were broke all to pieces; doors when not fastened, sashes and windows wantonly damaged and destroyed. The people say that the soldiers are worse than the Indians; in short, they have given the Country





such an early specimen of their brutality as will make the inhabitants dread submission to the power of the British Ministry, and determine them to fight desperately rather than have such cruel masters to lord it over them. The Troops at length reached Charlestown, where there was no attacking them with safety to the Town, and that night and the next day crossed over in boats to Boston, where they continue to be shut up; for the people poured down in so amazing a manner from all parts, for scores of miles round, (even the gray-headed came to assist their countrymen) the General was obliged to set about further fortifying the Town immediately at all points and places.

The proceedings of April 19th have united the Colony and Continent, and brought in New York to act as vigorously as any other place whatsoever; and has raised an army in an instant, which are lodged in the several houses of the Towns round Boston till their tents are finished, which will be soon. All that is attended to, besides ploughing and planting, etc., is making ready for fighting. The non-importations and non-exportations will now take place from necessity, and traffick give place to war.

We have a fine spring, prospects of great plenty; there was scarce ever known such a good fall of lambs; we are in no danger of starving through the cruel acts against the New England Governments; and the men who had been used to the fishery, (a hardy generation of people) Lord North has undesignedly kept in the Country to give strength to our military operations, and to assist as occasion may require: thanks to a superiour wisdom for his blunders. The General is expecting reinforcements, but few have arrived as yet; the winds, contrary to the common run at this season, instead of being easterly, have been mostly the reverse. When the reinforcement arrives, and is recovered of the voyage, the General will be obliged in honour to attempt dislodging the people, and penetrating into the country; both soldiers and inhabitants are in want of fresh provisions, and will be like to suffer much,





should the Provincial Army be able to keep the Town shut up on all sides excepting by water, as at present.

The General engaged with the Selectmen of Boston, that if the Town's people would deliver up their arms into their custody, those that chose it should be allowed to go out with their effects. The townsmen complied, and the General forfeited his word, for which there will be an after reckoning, should they ever have it in their power to call him to an account. A few have been allowed to come out with many of their effects; numbers are not permitted to come out, and the chief of those who have been, have been obliged to leave their merchandise and goods (linen and household stuff, cash and plate excepted) behind them. You must look back to the origin of the United Provinces that you may have an idea of the resolution of this people. May the present struggle end as happily in favour of American liberty, without proving the destruction of Great Britain. We are upon a second edition of King Charles the First's reign, enlarged. May the dispute be adjusted before the times are too tragical to admit of it. Both officers and privates have altered their opinion of the Yankees very much since the 19th of April.

The detachment while at Concord disabled two twenty-four pounders, destroyed their two carriages and seven wheels for the same, with their limbers; sixteen wheels for brass three-pounders, and two carriages, with limber and wheels for two four-pounders; five hundred pounds of ball thrown into the river, wells, and other places; and broke in pieces about sixty barrels of flour, half of which was saved. Cannot be certain of the number that were killed. Apprehend, upon the whole, the Regulars had more than one hundred killed, and one hundred and fifty wounded, besides about fifty taken prisoners. The country people had about forty killed, seven or eight taken prisoners, and a few wounded.





H. B. I never saw the printed account till Monday, so that I was not directed by it in any of my inquiries when at Lexington and Concord. The General, I am persuaded, gave positive orders to the detachment not to fire first, or I am wholly mistaken in my opinion of him. The prisoners at Worcester, Concord and Lexington, all agreed in their being exceedingly well used. The policy of the people would determine them thereto, if their humanity did not.





## MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

In Provincial Congress, Watertown,)
   
May 22, 1775.)

"Resolved, That the following Narrative of the excursion and ravages of the King's Troops, under the command of General Gage, on the nineteenth of April last, together with the Depositions taken by order of the Congress to support the truth of it, be sent to the press for publication.  
 Samuel Freeman, Secretary."

A Narrative of the Excursion and Ravages of the King's Troops, under the command of General Gage, on the nineteenth of April, 1775; together with the Depositions taken by order of Congress to support the truth of it.  
 Published by authority.

On the nineteenth of April, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, a day to be remembered by all Americans of the present generation, and which ought, and doubtless will be handed down to ages yet unborn, the Troops of Britain, unprovoked, shed the blood of sundry of the loyal American subjects of the British King, in the field of Lexington. Early in the morning of said day, a detachment of the forces under the command of General Gage, stationed at Boston, attacked a small party of the inhabitants of Lexington and some other Towns adjacent, the detachment consisting of about nine hundred men, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith; the inhabitants of Lexington, and the other Towns were about one hundred, some with and some without fire-arms, who had collected upon information that the detachment had secretly marched from Boston on the preceding night, and landed on Phipp's farm in Cambridge, and were proceeding on their way with a brisk pace towards Concord, as the inhabitants supposed, to take or destroy a quantity of stores deposited there for the use of the Colony; sundry peaceable inhabitants having the same night been taken, held by force, and otherwise abused on the road, by some officers of General Gage's Army, which caused a just





alarm, and a suspicion that some fatal design was immediately to be put in execution against them. This small party of the inhabitants was so far from being disposed to commit hostilities against the Troops of their Sovereign that, unless attacked, they were determined to be peaceable spectators of this extraordinary movement; immediately on the approach of Colonel Smith with the detachment under his command, they dispersed; but the detachment, seeming to thirst for blood, wantonly rushed on, and first began the hostile scene by firing on this small party, by which they killed eight men on the spot, and wounded several others before any guns were fired upon the Troops by our men. Not contented with this effusion of blood, as if malice had occupied their whole souls, they continued the fire, until all of this small party who escaped the dismal carnage were out of the reach of their fire.

Colonel Smith, with the detachment, then proceeded to Concord, where a part of this detachment again made the first fire upon some of the inhabitants of Concord, and the adjacent Towns, who were collected at a bridge upon this just alarm, and killed two of them, and wounded several others, before any of the Provincials there had done one hostile act. Then the Provincials, roused with zeal for the liberties of their Country, finding life and every thing dear and valuable at stake, assumed their native valour and returned the fire, and the engagement on both sides began. Soon after, the British Troops retreated towards Charlestown, having first committed violence and waste on publick and private property, and on their retreat were joined by another detachment of General Gage's Troops, consisting of about a thousand men, under the command of Earl Percy, who continued the retreat. The engagement lasted through the day; and many were killed and wounded on each side, though the loss on the part of the British Troops far exceeded that of the Provincials.





The devastation committed by the British Troops on their retreat, the whole of the way from Concord to Charlestown, is almost beyond description: such as plundering and burning of dwelling houses and other buildings, driving into the street women in child-bed, killing old men in their houses unarmed. Such scenes of desolation would be a reproach to the perpetrators even if committed by the most barbarous Nations; how much more when done by Britons famed for humanity and tenderness! and all this because these Colonies will not submit to the iron yoke of arbitrary power.

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DEPOSITIONS TAKEN BY ORDER OF THE CONGRESS.

(For Depositions No. 1. to No. 20. inclusive, see Folio 487-501.)

A paper having been printed in Boston, representing that one of the British Troops killed at the bridge at Concord, was scalped and the ears cut off from the head; supposed to be done in order to dishonour the Massachusetts people, and to make them appear to be savage and barbarous, the following deposition was taken, that the truth may be known.

(No. 21.)

Concord, May 11, 1775.

We, the subscribers, of lawful age, testify and say, that we buried the dead bodies of the King's Troops that were killed at the North Bridge in Concord, on the nineteenth day of April, 1775, where the action first began, and that neither of those persons were scalped, nor their ears cut off, as has been represented.

Zachariah Brown,  
Thomas Davis, Jr.

Zachariah Brown and Thomas Davis, Jr., personally appeared before me, and made oath to the above declaration.

Duncan Ingraham, Justice of the  
Peace.





(No. 22.)

Hannah Adams, wife of Deacon Joseph Adams, of the second Precinct in Cambridge, testifieth and saith, that on the nineteenth day of April last past, upon the return of the King's Troops from Concord, divers of them entered our house by bursting open the doors, and three of the soldiers broke into the room in which I then was laid on my bed, being scarcely able to walk from my bed to the fire, and not having been to my chamber door from my being delivered in child-birth to that time. One of said soldiers immediately opened my curtains with his bayonet fixed, and pointing the same to my breast. I immediately cried out, "for the Lord's sake don't kill me." He replied, "damn you." One that stood near, said, "we will not hurt the woman if she will go out of the house, but we will surely burn it." I immediately arose, threw a blanket over me, went out, and crawled into a corn-house near the door, with my infant in my arms, where I remained until they were gone. They immediately set the house on fire, in which I had left five children and no other person; but the fire was happily extinguished when the house was in the utmost danger of being utterly consumed.

Hannah Adams .

Middlesex, ss., Cambridge, Second Precinct,)  
May 17, 1775. )

Hannah Adams, the subscriber of the above deposition, personally appeared and made oath to the truth of the same. Before me,  
Jona. Hastings, Justice of the  
Peace.





(No. 23.)

Cambridge, May 19, 1775.

We, Benjamin Cooper and Rachel Cooper, both of Cambridge aforesaid, and of lawful age, testify and say, that in the afternoon of the nineteenth day of April last, the King's Regular Troops, under the command of General Gage, upon their return from blood and slaughter which they had made at Lexington and Concord, fired more than one hundred bullets into the house where we dwell, through doors, windows, etc.; then a number of them entered the house where we and two aged gentlemen were, all unarmed. We escaped for our lives into the cellar; the two aged gentlemen were immediately most barbarously and inhumanly murdered by them, being stabbed through in many places, their heads mauled, skulls broke, and their brains beat out on the floor and walls of the house, And further saith not.

Benjamin Cooper,  
Rachel Cooper.

Middlesex, ss., May 19, 1775.

The above named Benjamin Cooper and Rachel Cooper appeared, and after due caution, made solemn oath to the truth of the above deposition by them subscribed. Before me,

Jonas Dix, Justice of the Peace.



RAVAGES OF THE KING'S TROOPS ON THE NINETEENTH  
OF APRIL, 1775.

The Committee appointed to estimate the damages done at Cambridge, Lexington, and Concord, by the King's Troops on the 19th day of April, 1775, having attended that service, beg leave to report:

That the devastation made by fire and robbery on said day, by said Troops, is as follows, viz:

The damage to the buildings in Cambridge, estimated according to the best skill and judgment of your Committee, after viewing the same, amounts to - - - - - £176 5s. 6d.

The value of the goods and chattles that were destroyed or taken out of said houses, or near the same, by the estimation of those persons, (by their several accounts exhibited) on oath, who lost the same, amounts to - - - - - £1036 6s. 3d.

The value of the goods and chattles that were destroyed or taken out of said houses, or near the same, by the estimation of those persons, by their several accounts exhibited, who left the same, but were not sworn to by reason of some being absent or some other inconveniences that attended the same, amounts to - - - - - £192 6s. 10d.

Damage done to the meeting-house and school-house in the north-west precinct, in said Cambridge, estimated by your Committee, amounts to - - - - - £0 13s. 4d.

Vessels, linen, and cash belonging to the church of said precinct, taken out of the house of Joseph Adams, deacon of said church, as by his account exhibited on oath, amounts to - - - - - £16 16s. 8d.

Total, £1202 8s. 7d.





Damages sustained in Lexington, viz:

The following buildings destroyed by fire, with cash, utensils, and other moveables, either burnt in the same, or carried away, estimated by the owners of said premises, as by their accounts exhibited on oath,

----- £891 8s. 6d.

Damage to other buildings in said Town, estimated as the buildings in Cambridge, amounts to ----- £32 18s. 7d.

Damage (by robbing of said Troops) by sundry inhabitants, as by their several accounts on oath, ----- £760 18s. 2d.

Damage sustained by other inhabitants, as their several accounts exhibited, but not on oath, for the reasons aforementioned, amounts to ----- £74 4s. 2d.

Damage to meeting-house in said Town ----- £1 13s. 0d.

Total, £1761 1s. 5d.

Damage sustained in Concord, viz:

The buildings estimated as above ----- £12 12s. 0d.

Damage sustained by sundry inhabitants in manner aforesaid, under oath, amounts to ----- £209 16s. 10d.

Damage by other inhabitants, not under oath, for reasons aforesaid, amounts to ----- £59 1s. 9d.

Damage to sundry door-locks broke in His Majesty's Jail, in said Town, by account exhibited on oath, by the under keeper of said jail, amounts to ----- £3 6s. 0d.

Total, £274 16s. 7d.

Abraham Fuller )  
 Ichabod Goodwin ) Committee  
 Oliver Whitney )





The Committee appointed to confer with William Read, Esq., reported the following, (presented to them by Wm. Read, Esq., of Lexington, in behalf of Joseph Loring, J. Loring, Jun., Widow Mulliken, and Joseph Pond,) viz:

"Joseph Loring, Joseph Loring, Jun., Widow Lydia Mulliken, and Joseph Pond, had their houses, furniture, provisions, and all apparel, burnt by Gen. Gage's Troops in the late battle, whereby they are reduced to a state of abject poverty. William Read, Esquire, prays, in behalf of the above distressed inhabitants of Lexington, that they may have a present relief from the honourable Congress of one hundred and sixty pounds of Pork, in order to prevent their starving."

Whereupon, Ordered, That the Committee of Supplies be, and they are hereby directed to deliver to said William Read, Esq., or to his order, for the use of the said Joseph Loring, Joseph Loring, Jun., Widow Mulliken, and Joseph Pond, one barrel of Pork.



LIEUTENANT JOHN MENROE

OF LEXINGTON.

1666 - 1753.

M. J. Canavan.

Barton Gallery,

Boston Public Library.





Lieutenant John Munroe and his immediate family.

In 1666, John Munroe was born in that part of Lexington which was called "Scotland", over near the Woburn line, where "the way to Roe's" and the "way to Cooke's farm" cross. These old ways are now represented by Woburn and Lowell Streets.

He was the son of William Munroe, the redemptioner, one of those Scottish prisoners captured at the battle of Worcester and sent to the Province in the John and Sarah, 1651. They were parcelled out among those who needed help, many going to the iron works at Saugus. According to John Cotton, they were allowed one day to work for themselves and then one for their masters and were freed after several years' service, three or four years, generally.

I remember that I saw somewhere that Edward Winship had some of these Scotsmen, but I have no record of it. Probably it was in the early court records of Middlesex. I looked through the first volume or two, and found the Scotsmen were not very ; and think that was where I got my impression about Winship having two or three of them. William Munroe had recovered his freedom soon, and was buying up little pieces of land when the town of Cambridge sold off two or three-acre lots, to pay small bills. Then he would trade off and accumulate land in a bunch. He bought a good deal of the Cooke farm. He kept his family around him, adding to his house, tacking on to it, until it "resembled a rope-walk."

When William and Mary came to the throne, war was declared against France, and the British provincials and the French were not allowed to remain neutral, but were ordered to fight each other. The provinces suffered much from attacks by the French and their Indian allies who in 1695 made an incursion against Casco (Portland). Relief was sent by land and sea, but too late.





The Indians again ravaged the country around Dover and Durham. Captain Noah Wiswall of that part of Cambridge now Newton, was with the soldiers who were sent to the relief of Casco. Captain Converse of Woburn and Captain Floyd were also of this party. They reached what is now the town of Lee, New Hampshire, and had a fight with the Indians at Lamprey River and Wheelwright's Pond. The two places are near each other.

Cotton Mather in his "Decennium Luctuosum", wrote that "on July 6th, 1693, Captain Floyd and Captain Wiswell sent out scouts before breakfast who returned with tidings of the enemy. Our force attacked the savages at Wheelwright's Pond, and fought some hours. Captain Wiswell was shot as well as Lieutenant Flagg and Sergeant Walker. Fifteen men were slain and many more wounded. Captain Flagg maintained the fight for some hours after Wiswell's death, but at last drew off. Captain Converse came to look after the wounded and brought in several and buried the dead." All this was in the region of old Dover.

In 1727, the survivors of King Philip's War and of the war with Canada clamored for compensation for their services; for promises had been made, and the province gave them grants in 1734 and 1735.

In the House Journals of the Province for 1734 and 1735, and the Acts and Resolves, Vol. XII, Chap. 132, is a statement that the heirs of Noah Wiswell, Lt. Gersham Flagg and Ensign Edward Walker with four other men and a number of friendly Indians went on a march against the Indian enemy and engaged a superior number of them at a place called Lamprey River and destroyed many of the enemy, that the officers had lost their lives, and their heirs ask for unappropriated land.



1500 acres were granted to them between Lunenburg and Rutland to be divided. Captain Wiswell's heirs, 400 acres; Lieutenant Flagg's, 300; Ensign Walker's, 200; to Samuel Locke and to heirs of Samuel Baker, Wm. Bence and Benjamin Baldwin, 150 each, but one representative for each, and preference to eldest son.

Samuel Locke lived on the old Concord, Woburn, Salem road about where Hill and Revere streets cross Bedford Street. The cellar of his house was visible not many years ago. His son Sam lived there too, but was too fond of fine clothes and fine horses. He died about 1825.

John Munroe was in that fight, and did not intend to be slighted. In the House Journals for November, 1755, was a petition by John Munroe and others, for themselves, and as representatives of others, in the service of the province in the engagement when Captain Wiswell was killed at Lamprey river by the Indian enemy; praying for a grant of province land for their sufferings and service.

A few pages later it is stated that 700 acres were granted on the petition of John Munroe and others under Captain Wiswell, viz: 150 acres to each petitioner, lying between Lancaster New Grant, Rutland and Lunenburg, and that they return a plat of it to their court within a twelvemonth.

Sent up for concurrence. It does not appear from the records that there was concurrence, or that the land was actually granted; but many things were done which are not of record now. It is at least clear that John Munroe was under Captain Wiswell in this fight; and that the General Court thought that John and the other petitioners ought to have these 700 acres, and probably they did get them. When men got these grants, they generally assigned them to some relative, or sold them.





I noticed the name of another Lexington man: Captain Nathaniel Bowman, and other Canada soldiers were given a township six miles square, north of Harragansett No. 3. (Amherst, Ill.) Bowman and his party had meetings to agree how to push their petition through. John Munroe was probably working for his associates in the same manner. Captain Joseph Bowman was representative from Lexington that year.

This account of the fight at Lamprey River and the grants has brought us down well into the 18th century. We must go back. Before Cambridge Farms were set off, John Munroe had bought land of David Fiske. His house and barn were back of Belfry hill, about where the school is. I believe the excavators ran across the foundations when they were digging for the new school.

Between 1890 and 1900 I made inquiries of the old people to learn if any remembered this old John Munroe house. No one knew of it. Among others, I asked J. F. Simonds (who was called "old Fred"). At first, he did not know of any such house down at the end of Malt Lane, though he recalled the Malt House stuck up against the side of the hill a little beyond Clara Harrington's. I told him the house seemed to have been occupied near the end of the 18th century and that I thought it would have lasted over to his time. He said, "No." But the next time I met him he said, "About that house, I remember that when I was a very small boy, there were the ruins of an old house and barn in the meadow back of Belfry hill."

He ought to have remembered, if anyone, for his mother, Mary Viles, was born in the house that had belonged to Wm. Munroe, the blacksmith, a little low, red, one-story house where the hay-scales now are under the big elm; and Mr. Simonds had additional cause for remembering, for as a child he lived in the Buckman Tavern which belonged to his father.





On Nov. 2, 1692 (15-507) John Munroe, husbandman, gave to the inhabitants of Cambridge Farms, 1/2 acre of land near the 3-mile limit "for a burying place for ye dead". N.E. Captain Pelham's farm, elsewhere by John Munroe, with privilege of a passage way to and from said burying place along by Captain Pelham's line. Now that means that the North side of the lane would be at the Pelham line, or later, Muzzy's.

In 1694, Benjamin Muzzy sold John Munroe 1 1/2 acres of land; the highway north, Benjamin Muzzy S.E., land of John Munroe S.W. Benjamin and Sarah Muzzy. Witnesses John Poulter and Samuel Polley.

As the highway was North, then John Munroe, prior to this deed, did not have frontage on the Concord road at this place; and if you will take a sight down along the Northern edge of the lane from the burying ground, you will see what was the old Northern line of John Munroe's land.

And in 1731 (15-506), Benjamin Muzzy sold to the Inhabitants of Cambridge Farms, 1 1/2 acres of land for a Common, near the meeting house; N. by Benjamin Muzzy, the rest by highways.

In 1733 (M.D. 12-741), John Munroe bought of Oliver Wellington, twenty-five acres of land, bounded South by the 3-mile line, S.W. by John Hubbard, N.W. by Squadron line and highway, N.E. by John Cooper. This land would seem to stretch up over Robinson's Hill to Hill Street or to the old Concord, Woburn road.

And Nov. 25, 1703 (22-230), Jason Russell sold to John Munroe, 10 acres at Cambridge Farms, bounded N. and N.E. by Geo. Munroe, S. by lands of the Ministry and the Concord Road, W. by Elisha Trull and N.W. by Abe Watson. Perhaps that is up by Parker Street, but North or N.W. of the road.

And March 22, 1704/5, David Fiske and John Russell sold John Munroe 14 acres swamp land, bounded S.E. by John Munroe, N.W. by John Hancock, S.W.



and S.E. by Ministerial land.	David Fiske
Witnesses:	John Russell X his mark
Samuel Locke	Jonathan Russell
Wm. Munroe	Seaborn Fiske X her mark
John Hancock	

That would be in there, too, up against Ministerial land, and N.W. of John Munroe's other land.

This accounts for 50 acres of John's land, but he had about 100 acres. Half of it not recorded.

John is said to have married Hannah, the daughter of John and Abigail Marrett, the widow of Samuel Hastings, Junior. Paige's History of Cambridge states that Hannah was born August 17, 1668, and married Samuel Hastings, Junior, who died August 17, 1679, leaving her with a babe who soon died.

January 1, 1679, John Munroe had four children baptized. Hannah (Marrett) Hastings could not have been the first wife, according to the above dates. Evidently Parson Hancock had been giving John a lecture on his religious duties; perhaps, when the death of the first wife brought to his attention the fact that his bell-ringer and church-sweeper had not cared enough for his children's salvation to have them baptized.

The first wife would most likely have been some Woburn girl whom he would have met while living with his father on the edge of Woburn and attending the Woburn church. He was probably living on his own land by 1672 or 3. Somehow he learned that Hannah was a young widow and in accordance with the customs of the times "the funeral baked meats did coldly furnish forth the marriage table." By the funeral baked meats, I refer to those of her husband, Samuel Hastings, who died Sept. 28, 1677. She had a posthumous son by him who was baptized Feb. 4, 1679 and died in a few months.





I should suppose that the four children of John Munroe who were baptized Jan. 1, 1698/9, were by a first wife and that William, born Feb. 1, 1731 was by Hannah. But it is rather strange that John's second child should have been called Hannah.

Hannah Marrett was born Aug. 17, 1668. Hannah Munroe died April 14, 1716, "age 42 years, 4 months and 19 days", according to her gravestone. If the two Hannahs are the same person and dates correct, she would be 47 years, 7 mos. 26 days old at time of her death.

February 22, 1722/3 (23-42) John Munroe, yeoman, for good affection for my beloved son, John Munroe, give him 20 acres, bounded S.E. by the 2-mile limit, N.E. by John Cooper, E.W. by rangeway, S.W. by John Munroe. It is not material where this is for young John Munroe, at New London in the colony of Connecticut, sold this 20 acres back to his father Dec. 15, 1725, for £30.

I looked him up in New London. He was doing well even before he sold the land back to his father. In January, 1725, the marriage intentions of John Munroe and Lydia Plumb were published in New London, and before that he had lent Joshua Hempstead £3 and £5. On Nov. 25, 1725, at a fall training, John was a corporal in one of the two companies of New London. Then he got £30. from his father for the sale back of the twenty acres and he was a member of a good substantial family, friend of the Winthrops.

I know these things because Joshua Hempstead, the brother of his wife's mother, kept a voluminous diary up to 1757. (New London Hist. Soc. Vol. I, Diary of Joshua Hempstead). There are in it from time to time references to his nephew-by-marriage, as in the old fashioned way he calls him "Cousin Munroe."

In 1728, a son was born to John and Lydia, who was baptized June 7th and was named Joshua after the uncle.





July 18, 1733, John had a pair of twins baptized Jonathan and Lydia. June 1, 1731, a child of John Munroe was buried. Sept. 1, 1734, John Munroe's child, Elizabeth, was baptized. Nov. 10, 1734, there was a funeral of John Munroe's child 10 weeks old; yet in 1745, Elizabeth was received into the church. That must have been a second Elizabeth.

John Munroe, Joshua Hempstead and the Plumbs lived near together, and helped each other make hay, cart apples and build stone-walls.

Oct. 14, 1745, John Munroe, Jr. and Elizabeth Howard were published and the Lexington John, Junior, was John Senior in New London.

In 1753, Mr. Hempstead went to a meeting at "Cuz Munroe's house". Oct. 15, 1755, Jonathan Munroe and Eliza Lee were married.

If John Munroe or his wife had died before 1759, it would have been noted in this diary. There was later mention of the Munroes in the History of New London.

But, to return to the family in Lexington, Susannah, a daughter of old John, in 1734 married in Medford, Ebenezer Nichols of Reading, who became selectman, justice of peace, Representative to the General Court and Colonel in the militia. Their house was later known as the Bayner place. They had nine children.

Old John's land reached down the main road a little beyond the hay-scales below Spalding's, near the big elm, stretched back to the Ministerial land which in turn reached back to where the waterworks are. It reached West of Hastings Park, below which a causeway had been built as the land was swampy. His land stretched up over the hill by Gilmore's and Robinson's, and beyond the burying ground as far as Hill Street.

There was an orchard and a pasture on the hill, and a couple of springs. There was a place called "the Cove" which I thought might be



at Hastings Park. I believe the early Concord Road did not go straight at that point, but ran south of the present park and turned up at the upper end of it and then went on straight and met the old Concord-Woburn road at a house called Houghton's on the 1893 map. His land crossed "the road to Stone's". Up on the hill his land touched Mr. Moore's and Sam. Locke's, and reached to Hill Street which was a portion of the old Concord-Woburn-Salem road laid out I believe about 1650. Locke's house was up by the corner of Hill Street and where Bedford Street now is.

John gave away some land without its being recorded for we find his son, William, who was married or should have been in 1725, living in house where the hay-scales are, a little, low, one-story, red house where Fred Simonds' mother passed her early years. It came into the hands of Josiah Mead, and was included in his store. The store and house were together with a platform in front, with seats. Mr. Mead's several pretty daughters looked after the pins and needles and dry goods and he attended to the salt fish and rum.

He bought the rum in puncheons and ran it off into barrels, and as there was a pump in the back part of his store, the jokers claimed that he used it, and that when there was a cold snap the icicles hung from the spigot of the rum barrel. But, of course, that was only a little jesting mendacity, like the statement that in the evening he would call from the house into the store to Hastings, "James, have you sanded the sugar?" "Yes, sir." "Then when you have watered the rum you can come in to prayers."

John Munroe, senior, was apt to have been in good condition to help his children, if aid were needed. His own father, William, had died in 1716, leaving his large farm to be equally divided among his children; but





George was to have first tender of all the land at £4 per acre. This amount however was less than appears on the face of it for New England money was much depreciated.

Then John had that malt house on the side hill next to Malt Lane, where neighbors brought their barley to be moistened and heated on an iron floor and then when dried ground up by his mill into malt powder for making their beer.

The expense of keeping up the Great Bridge over the Charles river to Brighton, where the Stadium bridge now is, was a heavy burden on Cambridge, Lexington and other towns which had to maintain it, and frequent petitions were made to the General Court for relief. Money was scarce but the province had land, and the General Court gave to Lexington a thousand acres at what is now Ashburnham (State Archives 430 Catalogue number. Vol. 3-23 Lexington bridge grant 1000 acres Ashburnham.)

This was a time of boundary disputes between the provinces and especially between Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Massachusetts was trying to strengthen its claim by possession and occupancy and grants were readily made and more readily in the Northern part of the province.

These grants of 1000 acres to Cambridge and the same amount to Lexington were in Dorchester Canada now called Ashburnham. Cambridge held its 1000 acres for thirty years. Captain Thomas Adams of West Cambridge in 1763 bought a good part of it. His son, John Adams, settled on a portion of it after he had married John Munroe's grand-daughter, Joanna, the daughter of Jonas Munroe.

Lexington sold the thousand acre grant in 1757 to seven German immigrants for £200. and they and their friends settled on what received the name of "Dutch Farms."





Captain Nat. Bowman and others were given a township, and Josiah Fassett and other Port Royal soldiers of 1710 were given a township 6 miles square, and before that, in 1730, Benjamin Muzzy received a grant of 200 acres near Wachusett.

Perhaps by this time John had built his new house facing the common and moved into it. There would have been present as selectmen, his brother William (Ensign Roe) from his farm over on "the Way to Cocke's farm", Ensign John Mason, the tanner from Mason's Hollow or just above it, Mr. William Reed from up towards Bedford, Captain Reed a little later, and for seventeen years the town's representative in the General Court, and with him John Stone, Jr., who had married his sister, Mary Reed.

It was probably to celebrate the town's success with this claim, and the selectmen thought they deserved a reward and John gave it in his new house and the town repaid him. A hilarious occasion probably. There was no prohibition then.

That John was prominent and popular is shown by the fact that he was lieutenant in the Lexington company. Such offices depended on the favor of the people. He was treasurer of the town in 1711, 1717, 1723, and selectman in 1718, 1719, 1726. He must have felt that he was well off. He was dividing up most of his land in 1737 between his sons Jonas and Marrett; and that name gives a strong presumption that his mother was Hannah (Marrett) Hastings Munroe.

The other sons had received portions, John, Jr., as I have already stated, and William, the blacksmith, who had land east of Malt Lane, his shop next to Malt Lane and his house farther down where the hay-scales are under the big elm. He also had land northeast of the lane leading into the burying ground, which had belonged to Benjamin Muzzy. I don't know how he got it, the land where the church and Dan. Harrington's place



is and was. The new addition to the burying ground came out of his land, 1747, or thereabouts.

John gave Jonas land opposite the Common beginning at Malt Lane and reaching up to the land he gave Marrett which contained the new mansion, now the Marrett Munroe house.

Jonas had the eastern portion of John's estate. It reached down Malt Lane down beyond the ditch and stretched up across the road and over the hill. He was given the mansion house, the malt house and the malt mill. That shows you the malt house and mill were there before 1737. The house back of the hill was not as valuable as the barn.

Marrett received the house I have spoken of and the west part of John's land facing the common, about 40 acres, and one-half of the house, barn and sheep-fold which John had given to Jonas. If you find any inconsistency make your quarrel with old John. In the settlement of the estate of Jonas there is no mention of any right by Marrett in this old house and barn.

John had money in those days when it was a scarce article. In 1712 (12-129) he lent Benjamin Bates £30 on land on Elm Street, which was paid off the next year. In 1725, when young John sold him back the 20 acres, John paid him £60.

He lived to the good old age of eighty-eight years, dying intestate in 1733. His son William, the blacksmith, was the administrator. The inventory showed that John had cash, for he left about 15 notes and bonds running from £3 to £100. His personal estate was £240. John Buckman owed him a note for £100, dated 1743.

His inventory shows that he had a bible, psalm books, a blue coat, a blue jacket, a great coat, a silk crape coat, camlet coat, plush breeches,





striped breeches, white leather breeches, and much other wearing apparel; 1 handkerchief, 3 silk handkerchiefs, feather beds, 6 red chairs in chamber, great chair, 4 chairs; 1 large pewter dish, 7 wooden plates, 7 old knives and forks; old sword; looking-glass; "2 orgers"; wooden "Boles", 1 old lamp, 1 candlestick, 6 wooden plates, 5 small dishes, sheep's wool, 6 wooden plates.

That silk crape coat sounds impressive. I can imagine him wearing that and his plush breeches when he was button-holing the representatives, and was urging them to push along the town grant and his own private one.

His table furniture sounds simpler. Seven old knives and forks. It is pleasing to think he used forks. Not everyone did in those days, and some at present prefer the knife.

Probably John had given away most of his household goods to his children. He had been a widower 37 years.





A SKETCH OF THE LIFE  
OF  
CAPTAIN EDMUND MUNRO  
OF  
LEXINGTON  
AND  
HIS PONYBOARS  
VOL. I.

By  
M. J. Canavan,  
282 Washington St.,  
Boston, Mass.



I intend in this article to give an account of the life of Captain Edmund Munroe of Lexington, who served in the old French War and in the Revolution, and who was killed by a cannon ball at the battle of Monmouth.

The data from which the facts concerning his life are taken come mainly from papers and memoranda contained in an old scrap book collected by his son Edmund Munroe of the firm of Munroe & Francis, who were booksellers and publishers in Boston in the early part of the century. Meagre scraps of a diary and a portion of his orderly books and a few letters also exist.

In giving the story of his life, it is not amiss to give a short account of his ancestors and particularly those who lived in America. The Munroes were a clan of Highlanders living in the County of Ross, Scotland, on the edge of the Highlands. They became Presbyterians at an early period. Many good soldiers and eminent men sprang from this clan in the old country; but we have nothing to do with them. The Munro who lived at Lexington, or Cambridge Farms as the place was then called, was named William.

"The Book of the Lockes", a genealogy of a family which intermarried largely with the Lexington Munros, states that the Munros were in the army of King Charles the 1st when he was defeated at the Battle of Worcester and that four Munros, brothers or relations, Robert, John, Hugh and William, were taken in that battle and were shipped to this colony, in the John and Sara, John Green, Master, in 1651, and were sold for a limited time to pay the expense of transportation. The book states that William settled at Lexington and the tradition is that he lived on lands "granted him at Cambridge Farms by the town."





Some 7000 or 8000 prisoners were sent by Cromwell to America after the Battle of Worcester. (See Russell's Mod. Europe, Vol. 3, p. 416)

The Reverend John Cotton in a letter to Cromwell in 1651 says "The Scots whom the Lord hath delivered into your hands at Dunbar and whereof Sundry were sent hither, we have been desirous as we could to make their yoke easy. Such as were sick of the Scurvy or other diseases have not wanted Physick or Chirurgery. They have not been sold as slaves into perpetual servitude but for 7 or 8 years as we do our own. And he that hath bought most of them I hear buildeth houses for them, for every four an house, layeth some acres of land thereto which he giveth them as their owne, requiring 3 dayes in the week to work for him ( by turnes) and 4 days in the week for themselves and promising as soon as they can repay him the money he hath laid out for them he will set them at liberty."

It seems probable from this letter that the first land William would own would be given him by Edward Winship. Winship bought some of the passengers of The John & Sara and William Munroe settled near Winship's farm.

Note

It is a fact that a shipload of 272 unfortunate prisoners were sent over in the John & Sara and the names of John, Hugh and Robert appear, and there was another Munroe whose Christian name was not given. There was already a Munro in this Colony, for Alexander Munro was carrying on a law-suit in Boston, at this time.

Note: Deeds in Vol. IV, Suffolk Deeds, show that the Scotch prisoners sent in the John & Sara were sent over by John Bex & Company, undertakers of Iron works in N. England. They had mines and foundries at Lynn and Braintree. And another deed or agreement shows that Thos. Ledor or Leader sold some of these for in settling an account with the iron-works people, they say he can put in his bill for selling the Scots. They were mainly sent over to get the iron-works going. Some of them worked at the Iron-works on the Saugus River at West Lynn and some lived, 1675, on the road to Malden.





Mr. Locke's book was published about 1648, and he had worked on it for years, and evidently had discussed the matter with people who were well posted on the traditions of the family. He also gives a letter written in 1764 which throws some light on the relations of the Munroes at that period and which will appear later in this article.

In the last century the tradition in Edmund Munro's immediate family was that William Munroe was born about 1616; that the Munros were a Protestant clan, and that the clans next to them were Catholics; that the Munros fought for King Charles; that in a fight with one of these clans some of the Munros were captured and that three brothers were indentured as cabin boys and sent to New England. One of the brothers settled at Little Compton, R. I. Another note says at Bristol. The two places are not far apart. That one of these brothers was William, who was a poor lad indentured to a Mr. Winship in what is now Arlington. The tradition puts the time of their coming over as about 1640.

This is the story Aunt Prudence Brooks told and Mr. Munroe says she was a daughter or granddaughter of the 1st William and lived to be very old. In the settlement of the estate of Captain Edmund Munroe, a Prudence Munroe appears as a creditor. A study of the genealogies shows that she was originally a Harrington and married Captain Joseph Estabrook and after his death married Daniel Munro, the youngest son of William, the original settler. This was probably Aunt Prue or Aunt Brooks, and apparently she retained her former title by courtesy as a dowager duchess does in England.

Note: Aunt Prudence Harrington, Estabrook, Bowman. I don't trace Aunt Prue clearly through her marriages and widowhoods. But the point was she was the widow of Benjamin Munroe, a son of the 1st Wm. and would surely know a good deal. My trouble in following her vicissitudes came from the fact that I suppose she married Isaac Bowman, and Edmund Munroe's mother married Isaac Bowman after Prudence died, and the widow of Benj. Munroe didn't die soon enough to fit properly.

Isaac Bowman had a son Francis Bowman by his wife Sarah Mason Munroe Bowman in 1752, a half-brother of Edmund, Wm. and Nehemiah Munroe. He was known as "old Frank Bowman." The Munroe brothers did not like him.





She used to tell with tears in her eyes of the hardships that William endured, how he had little to eat but hasty pudding and milk and ate it out of a wooden bowl with a wooden spoon, both of which he made himself, and that he ate and drank from a wooden bowl or from the shell of a pumpkin.

Aunt Prue felt much humiliated by this but Mr. Munroe (I suppose I meant Mr. Locke) makes the note that she should have been proud that the old man could start so humbly and push himself up to the position of being one of the first six men of the town in wealth and position.

In 1657 he was fined 6d. by the town of Cambridge for letting his swine loose without rings in their noses. Like many other prominent men and women in the colony at that time, neither William nor his wife Mary could write their names but made a mark to their deeds.

The Winship, to whom William Munroe was indentured was undoubtedly Edward Winship who built a saw mill where the brook leaves the Great Meadows or as they used to be called "Alewife Meadows." William may have worked at the mill or he may have worked on the farm to the northwest of Mt. Ephraim which Ephraim Winship, the son of Edward, managed and afterwards owned.

Note

After William became free he apparently obtained a grant of the Town of Cambridge of some of the common land lying east of Captain Cooke's farm and went back a mile or so from Winship's place and began to clear away the forest and build his hut; and like the other settlers used blocks of wood for tables and chairs and lived in a primitive way.

He did not marry till he was between 40 and 50 years old and lived to be 92 or a 100, as you accept different stories. He died in 1717. There is nothing improbable in his living to the age of 100. His descendants are long lived and his granddaughters, Abigail Spooner and Mary Sanderson, both lived to be over 100. Though he married so late in life he had 13 children and was married 3 times.

Note: Cambridge records show Wm. as buying from the town almost every year small lots of land.





He kept his family pretty much around him except his son John, who got a tract of land west of the common and lived there close to the spot where the brick school house stands.

William's house was situated, according to Aunt Prue, "on the plain in the immediate vicinity of the house occupied by Uncle Moses Harrington" in the early part of the century (19th). Uncle Moses Harrington lived in a house on the South side of Lowell St. or as it used to be called, the way to Captain Cooke's farm. Midway between the Scotland School-house and Mr. George Munroe's house.

William's house was probably on the East side of Woburn St., a little to the North of Lowell Street. Traces of the cellar still remain. The place beyond Graham's on Woburn St. where an old chimney was standing in 1896 has been regarded by some as the spot. It was occupied at the beginning of this century by an Uncle Billy Munroe, but William the 1st probably lived on the other side of the way nearer Lowell Street.

He bought 36 acres of Richard Saunders of Dublin, Ireland, which would seem to be near by where he built, and some years later bought 100 acres of Captain Cooke's farm, which lay to the north of Munroe's brook and west of Russell's farm. He also owned land west of Mr. Cotton's on Middle Street. And was continually buying up 2, 3 and 4 acre pieces which were being sold by the town of Cambridge to pay the School-master's salary.

As his family grew he built additions to his original hut until, as Aunt Prue said, "It presented a curious appearance with the variegated gables." And Mrs. Sanderson, the granddaughter of his son George, described it as looking like a rope-walk.





The genealogy of his son William was straightened out by Aunt Prue and Mrs. Sanderson did the same service for the descendants of his son George. All of her immediate relations had been put down as descended from Lt. John until she insisted that they were descended from George. The Genealogy of the descendants of Lt. John contains errors.

The old Testament names so much used in the last century were not favorites in the family. All were fond of the name William and there were so many of that name that they added on some term to distinguish the different Williams, such as Ensign Bill, Will the blacksmith, and 40-foot Will.

The second William, the third child of the original settler, was born in 1662 and settled to the east of his father, on land afterwards owned by his grandson, Captain Edmund Munroe, and after his death by Deacon Nehemiah Munroe. After the death of Nehemiah in 1828, it was bought by Antipas Grover. It comprised a tract of land on both sides of Lowell St., half way between Woburn St. or "the way to Row's", and the Reservoir, about 200 acres.

This 2nd William was the Ensign Roe mentioned in the old couplet handed down by Aunt Prue:

"Lieutenant John and Ensign Roe,  
Sergeant George and Corporal Joe."

Military titles and rank were eagerly sought at that time and the fact that they bore these titles would indicate that they were prominent men. Before the establishment of the parish their associations were with Woburn people and in 1670 John appears to have belonged to the Company of Captain Converse and to have taken part in the fight at Wheelwright's Pond near Lee, N.H. This 2nd William married twice and had 9 children, of whom 4 were sons.

Note: The Munroes were often called the Rows.



The eldest son was William, born Dec. 13, 1733. Then came Thomas, 3 years younger, David born 1738 and Philip born 1741.

When Philip grew up he married and moved away. David became a tanner and married Abigail Wellington. There was a tannery on the Wellington land on Pleasant Street, in the last century, at the spot where a lane, which apparently runs over to Blossom St., begins. Very likely David ran this tannery with Benjamin Wellington. About 1760 David presented a bill to the town for some leather furnished to the boy of a family of French neutrals to make a pair of breeches. These exiled Acadians were at that time quartered in Blossom St. or as it was then called, Smith's Road.

Son Thomas married, went to Concord and became a Captain and kept "Roe's Tavern" in that town. In the diaries of soldiers returning from the French war you will find references to reaching "Roe's Tavern," and the General Court allowed a number of bills presented by him for billeting soldiers. In 1755 Captain Spikeman's Company which was enlisted in this vicinity was ordered to "form in line by Captain Roe's to receive their pay." His (Thomas') wife died and in 1763 he married Hepzibah Raymond, the widow of Jonathan Raymond who had kept the Raymond Tavern in Lexington. He died in 1766.

It is with William Munroe, the elder brother of Captain Thomas, that we are most interested. On June 3rd, 1733, he married Sarah Mason, the daughter of John Mason, a tanner who lived on the Concord Highway in the house near Munroe's Station now occupied by Prof. Welles. Sarah was born in 1714 and was therefore 19 years old at the time of her marriage. They had six children: Edmund born 1736; Sarah, b. May 1, 1738, m. Dec. 1762 Wm. Tidd of Lex. and moved to New Braintree; Catharine, b. Sept. 1, 1740, m. Nov. 23, 1764, Jos. Bowman of Lexington and moved to New Braintree; William b. Oct. 28, 1742, twice married; Abigail b. Feb. 24, 1744, m. Dan'l Spooner





of Haviland, Vt., d. 1846, aged 82; Nehemiah b. July 1, 1747, m. Dec. 5, 1771, Avis Hammond, moved to Roxbury, where he died Aug. 18, 1828, aged 81.

If you should go into the old burying ground at Lexington, you will find in the middle of it a grave stone with this inscription:

Here Lies

William Munroe, d. Aug. 18, 1747. Aged 44 years.

The first buried in this yard.

As one glances around and finds grave stones dated as far back as 1692, the statement that William lies seems susceptible of a double meaning, but it is true, nevertheless.

William the 3rd was a prominent man in town affairs. The half-acre given by John Munroe to the town for a burying ground in 1692 had become inadequate. A committee had been appointed by the town to buy land to enlarge the burying yard. William was the chairman of the committee. They bought from his cousin William Munroe, the blacksmith, a piece of land adjacent to the old burying ground and William had just laid it out when he "caught a sudden cold while mowing in the cold springy meadow in front of his house." The cold developed into a violent fever and he died in three days and was the first person buried in the new yard he had just laid out.

He lived on "the way to Captain Cooke's farm" as Lowell St. was called, a little to the East of Mr. Whipple's house. The old road makes a bow there and leaves the turnpike for a short distance and Wm. Munroe lived half way down this bow. There was an old house there which was burned a few years ago and this was probably his house. At least, it was the house in which his son Edmund lived.

When he died, his father, Ensign Roe, was still alive, a hearty man of 72. He lived to the age of 91, and died in 1759. He was very fond of his eldest son and I presume took charge of the farm after his death, and





that the widow and her six small children lived there till February 1753, when she married Isaac Bowman, a widower who had one daughter who was already married off. Then they lived at the old Bowman place on the back road to Arlington Heights. Isaac and Sarah had one child afterwards, known as "Old Frank Bowman."

During his life Isaac Bowman held almost every office in the town, from field driver to Deputy to the General Court, which office he held in 1748 and 49. He was also a Magistrate.

Mrs. Sarah Mason Munroe Bowman kept a dames' school in that part of the "Skirts" of the town and was undoubtedly a good teacher. She wrote a hand like copperplate. She took the greatest of care of her little brood and was known in the town as "one of the Mothers in Israel," a title which in those days meant that she was devoted, self-denying and a pattern of all Christian virtues.

As the children grew up, Edmund went to Concord and was apprenticed to a cordwainer, or shoemaker, and probably lived with Uncle Thomas at Roe's Tavern. William was sent to Cambridge Plains to learn the Cooper's trade, and Nehemiah learned the trade of cabinet-maker.

Concord was a lively town in those days. A large proportion of the travel to New Hampshire passed through it. The County Court sat there, and an active boy must have had plenty of fun in such a place. They had a gallows and stocks and in such a town would also have been the cage, the whipping post and pillory. To pelt a rogue in the pillory is a delight that we have not known. Nor have we seen the wretches drawn out in the cage to the Whipping-post, there to be flogged on the bare back. Without doubt, many a time Edmund crept into the court room and saw the judges sitting in their





red robes and big wigs, and listened to John Adams and James Otis in their tie wigs and black stuff gowns as they pleaded their clients' cases.

The affection of Ensign Roe for his son William has been mentioned. In 1755 he made a conveyance, "In consideration of the respect I had for my son William, deceased, I convey to my beloved grandsons Edmund and William Munroe, my pew in the meeting house, it being in the Southwest corner of said house." This pew had about the same position that Colonel William Munroe's pew had in new meeting house which was built in 1770.

In a memorandum book of Edmund Munroe is a loose-leaf probably from an Almanac of 1755. On it is written in a very fine hand, probably by Edmund's mother, an account of the great earthquake of 1755:

"On Nov. 18 was a very terrible shock of an earthquake, about 4 o'clock in the morning which lasted about 2 minutes and a half, extending 800 miles, which shook down many chimneys in Boston, and many other towns, and it was thought if the shock had lasted or increased half a minute longer, it would have shook down many houses. But through the great goodness of God, there was not a life or limb lost."

In 1754 the French War began with an expedition under John Winslow up the Kennebec River. In 1755 Captain Spikeman made his headquarters at Captain Row's Tavern and beat his drums through Middlesex County and some men from Lexington enlisted with him. These were fine days for a boy of 13. To live in the same tavern with the Captains and officers. To see the drums beaten and the men enlist and take the shilling and have the cockade pinned on the hat.

Note: In Col. John Winslow's Journal, 1755 (in Mass. Hist. Soc'y) He was authorized by Gov. Shirley to beat his drums in the Province for enlisting volunteers. Feb. 12, 1755. Apr. 24/55, Officers take care and have their men in readiness to fall down alongside of Capt. Rowe and have all their men paid off. Jas. Blanchard, Uriah Holt, Phineas Parker, Solomon Wyman, Jeremiah Blanchard, Josh. Peirce. Shop Yard Mach. N. Preble. Capt. Spikeman's Co., total 93. John Robbins of Spikeman's Company sick at Fort Lawrence July 1755.





When the Company had been enlisted they fell into line by Captain Roe's and received their pay and then marched to Boston. All the troops had a great parade on the common and after waiting some weeks till they received their muskets they set sail for Acadia.

In this same year Braddock was defeated and at Crown Point the Provincials under Colonel Lyman had a hot fight with the French under Dieskau and Dieskau was badly defeated. In 1756 both armies lay in camp and many died of camp diseases.

In 1757 came the Massacre at Fort Wm. Henry. During all this time soldiers were constantly passing to and fro and were being billeted at Captain Roe's, and Edmund must have heard a great deal about the war.

On Jan. 1, 1758, Ld. London, the Commander of the English Army, decided to increase Rogers' Rangers by 4 additional companies from New England, and one company of Stockbridge Indians. Each company was to consist of 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 4 Sergeants and 100 men. The privates were to receive 2s. 6d. a day in N. Y. currency. One month's wages to be paid in advance. The men were to provide themselves with blankets, warm clothing, the same to be uniform in each company, and to supply their own arms. All were required to be at Ft. Edward by March 15. The levies were completed by March 4th. Four companies were sent to Louisberg under Amherst. And Edmund's cousin, Robert Munroe, was probably in one of these companies. The rest, under Rogers, went to Fort Edward. Most of the men came from New Hampshire but Rogers also enlisted many in Middlesex County. His muster rolls are not to be found in this country. Probably because these new enlistments were not Provincial troops but were in the direct pay of the





King and the papers would be sent to England. It is a pity they have not been found as many from this vicinity enlisted at that time in the Corps. Rogers was at the whole expense of raising these companies and never got paid for it. While in Boston he seems to have got in some scrape about counterfeiting the provincial paper money and was apparently let off on account of his usefulness as a frontier soldier. Whenever he was not fighting he was apt to be engaged in some shady work.

Rogers was a remarkable character. He was born at Londonderry, N. H., or Methuen, Mass., and had passed all his life on the frontier and led an adventurous life which brought him into contact with the French and Indians so that he knew the French language and was familiar with Indian fighting. He had been a smuggler and this is spoken of in the books as being very discreditable to him; but smuggling was common in those days and though a crime, was considered no sin. On the sea-coast smuggling did not injure a man's reputation. John Hancock was a smuggler on a large scale and so were all importers. But whether or no Smuggling was a sin, Rogers was in other respects an unscrupulous rascal, but a first-class soldier for the kind of warfare in which he was engaged. He was 6 feet 2 inches tall and very athletic. He knew all the wiles and tricks of the Indians. He was bold, quick-witted and in situations where an ordinary commander would have been lost he made his way out of the scrape with little or no loss.

His Rangers were hardy picked men, used to frontier work. When other soldiers were in winter quarters he made his most hazardous expeditions on snow-shoes and skates. Scouting through the woods among French and Indians, creeping up back of Fort Ticonderoga and making surveys of the place, burning houses and barns in the immediate vicinity and carrying off its sentinels from its very gates.



Edmund Munroe enlisted among these new men, and they arrived in time to take part in a perilous and foolish expedition which Colonel Haviland ordered. He had given notice that he should send out 400 Rangers against the French, and on Rogers arrival, sent him out with 100 men all told. They met an overwhelming force of French and Indians near Ticonderoga and after fighting for hours, broke up into small parties at nightfall and fled. Rogers lost 8 officers and 100 men, but claimed to have killed 150 of the enemy and to have wounded as many more.

Soon afterwards Lt. London was succeeded by General Abercrombie, another of those curious commanders that England was in the habit of sending here in the last century. (This was written about 1870)

Abercrombie made Rogers a Major April 6, 1758. While with the Rangers, Edmund Munroe held the rank of orderly sergeant, and was made Adjutant of the corps probably at this time. Scraps of his orderly books exist which show that by the middle of April he was on "the Island near Ft. Edward" where the Rangers were in quarters and was performing the duties of Adjutant of the Corps. This was a responsible position for a young man of 22. Of course, most of the men about him were rude frontiersmen and the education he had acquired from his mother, the school dame, and in the Lexington school, stood him in good stead. He wrote a good clear hand and he must have impressed Rogers as an intelligent, trustworthy and methodical man. The items in the orderly book are of little general interest. They consist mainly of mere details of camp duties: the countersign, who were officers of the day, how provisions were to be distributed. They are of interest to us as showing that while so young he held so important a position in the Rangers.





May 22, he refers to a court martial of one of Captain John Stark's company. And again, "Edmund Maudrow of Island near Fort Edward, May 22, 1753. The Rangers are to be marched tomorrow at eleven o'clock at which time it is expected that they will have their rations and muster rolls ready." On "May 23, All the men are called in and no one is allowed to leave camp" and it is apparent that some expedition is to be made.

The Rev. John Cleveland, in his diary, makes the note that on "July 2nd Mr. Forbush preached from Exod. 17 where Moses sends Joshua out to fight against Amalek, a most appropriate discourse."

On July 5th, the whole army of 9000 provincials and 6000 regulars started for Ticonderoga in boats. The day was still and beautiful and the procession of the army on Lake George was a magnificent display. After landing they marched towards Ticonderoga, but got all mixed up in the woods and a body of 400 or 500 French who also got lost in the woods appeared in their midst. A sharp encounter took place and the French were killed or captured, but the English suffered a greater loss for Lt. Howe was killed, and Abercrombie was a dull, heavy man with little skill in war. Howe had been the brains of the army.

Montcalm had only about 3500 men, but determined to trust to luck, he built a strong breastwork of logs 8 feet high across the isthmus. A few cannon-balls would have demolished it, but Abercrombie determined to attack it with small arms only, to carry it by a bayonet attack. In front of the breastwork the forest had been cut down so that the tops of the trees projected towards the English and the branches matted together formed an almost impassable barrier. Between these trees and the breastwork was an abattis of sharpened stakes or branches which increased the difficulties and behind them rose the perpendicular walls of a breastwork 8 feet high.





The Rangers crept through the woods and drove the French into the breastwork and then came the bayonet attack by the regulars. Abercrombie was in a safe position some 2 miles in the rear. The soldiers struggled through the trees and abattis and were shot down like sheep and Abercrombie ordered attack after attack all the afternoon until at last a panic seized the soldiers and they fled. The Provincials remained and the Rangers brought up the rear in the retreat. The English lost 1608 regulars and 334 Provincials, killed and wounded. The French lost 500 killed, wounded and missing.

Soon afterwards about 500 Regulars, and Provincials under Captain Israel Putnam, and Rangers under Rogers, were sent to cut off a force of French and Indians that was making a foray. The English were ambuscaded by an equal force of Canadians and Indians and after a sharp fight of 2 hours the French broke into small parties and retreated. The English lost 33 men and the French about 200. Putnam was captured in this fight and narrowly escaped being burned at the stake.

On Aug. 28, Edmund Munroe in his orderly book refers to the rejoicings over the taking of the Fortress at Louisberg. "The regiments were to be under arms at six o'clock and line the breastworks and a salute of 21 guns to be fired and then all the regiments are to fire in turn until all shall have fired three times."

On the same date, he writes: "The Rangers to be under arms at 6 o'clock this evening to illuminate the Rejoicings for the success of his Majesty's army at Louisberg at which time Major Rogers is to give his Rangering Companies as a token of his dependence on their Loyalty and Bravery a Barrell of wine Treat to congratulate the good news to them and the good behaviour of the four Companies of Rangers at Louisberg which has won the Corps a universal national character." This was the King's birthday and





they gave a royal salute of 21 guns.

Lemuel Lyons of Woodstock writes in his diary, "They made a great fire on the parade ground and played around it and 1 jil of Rum a man aloud for the frolic and a barrel of beer for a company, a very wet Knight."

From this time on the Rangers were continually going on scouts till they went into winter quarters at Ft. Edward. On March 3rd, 1759, Rogers was sent with a party of 350 men made up of Regulars, Rangers and 50 Mohawk Indians to reconnoitre Fort Ticonderoga and enable an engineer to make plans of it. The weather was bitter cold and they proceeded on snow shoes down lake George. After the engineer had made sketches of the fort, as the weather was very severe and many of the men were frostbitten, Rogers sent the regulars who had no snow-shoes and some of the Rangers back to Sabbath-day Point with instructions to build fires and wait for him. Taking with him 40 Rangers and 45 Indians, Rogers started at 3 in the morning and crossed the lower end of L. Champlain and surprised some French wood-choppers on the Eastern side of the lake and captured some of them and killed the rest. A party of 80 Canadians and Indians followed by 150 French Regulars came out of Ticonderoga and pursued him. Rogers' party retreated till they reached rising ground and waited for the Canadians and Indians who were ahead of the Regulars to come up and then fired at them. They withdrew, but as he retreated, came on again. Rogers halted again on the farther side of a ridge of land and poured such a hot fire into the French that they gave up the pursuit. The enemy lost 30 men. Rogers lost 1 regular and 2 Indians, and 1 ranger was wounded. He continued his march till he arrived at the place where the rest of his party had built fires. He and his men travelled over 50 miles this day on snow-shoes. Many of them were so badly frost-bitten that he had to send to Fort Edward for sleds on which to carry them back.

In 1759, Rogers had 6 companies of rangers.





Amherst had succeeded "Habby Crombie" in the command of the army and on July 22nd, the army landed on the East side of L. George. The Rangers were in the front and had skirmishes with the enemy and drove them back. The fort was invested, but after a siege of 2 days, the French commander, Bourlemagne, recognized that Amherst understood his business and deserted the fort, blew it up and retreated down the lake. The army now proceeded to Crown Point which they found deserted.

Amherst now sent John Stark with 200 Rangers to cut a road through the woods to Fort No. 4, or Charlestown, N. H.

Capt. Kennedy and some men had been sent with a flag of truce to treat with the St. Francis Indians, who made them prisoners and sent them to Canada. To revenge this, on Sept. 12, Rogers was sent against them with 200 men. They stole down L. Champlain by night in canoes and batteaux, hiding in the woods in the day-time. When they reached the lower part of the lake their numbers had been reduced to 145. Then they marched for 12 days through bogs and morasses till they came in sight of the Indian town on the St. Lawrence. They attacked it in the night and killed almost all the inhabitants, about 300 in number. Learning that two parties of French and Indians were after them, they retreated to the S. E. where they expected to find provisions on the Connecticut at the mouth of the Annonisuc River. Their provisions gave out. The country was destitute of game, and they were attacked by the Indians. At last they reached the Annonisuc in a starving condition, but the officer who had been sent with provisions had departed a couple of hours before their arrival. Rogers showed them how to cook lily roots and ground nuts, and floated down the river on a raft, and 10 days afterwards returned with provisions and they marched to Fort. No. 4. Many died of starvation or became insane. They returned to Crown Point by the





road Stark had cut through the woods, and arrived there Dec. 1st. All but two companies of the rangers were dismissed and returned home.

There is nothing to show that Edmund Munroe did any heroic deeds while with the Rangers, not even a tradition. All we know is that he was an orderly sergeant in the Rangers and Adjutant of the Corps, and a few scraps of his orderly books remain which have but little in them that is of interest. But some of the adventures of the Rangers have been given for the time of his service with them. He was one of them and held an important position in the Corps and their deeds were in a measure his deeds. He was with them, of course, in the two attacks on Fort Ticonderoga in 1758 and 1759; for all of the rangers were present, and he may have been with them in some of the larger scouting parties. But in general his duties as adjutant would have kept him in the camp.

After the troops were discharged in 1759 it is probable that Edmund Munroe went back to Concord where he had been living. It was expected that the war would entirely cease by 1760 and it was practically ended in this country by the surrender of the French army under Vaudreuil, but the war was still carried on by France and England.

In 1761 Edmund Munroe again entered the army. He held the office of ensign in Colonel Jonathan Hoar's regiment and was also adjutant of that regiment. Hutchinson says in his history that in 1761 it was very easy to get men to enlist. They had had a taste of soldiering and enjoyed it, and more men volunteered than were needed. Mr. Charles Stetson, in an article, on Lexington, written in 1826, says that Edmund Munroe came to the town of Lexington and induced a number of his acquaintances to enlist. Most of these were in Captain Leonard Whiting's Company. Between 15 and 25 Lexington names appear on the muster rolls as being at Crown Point in 1761 and 1762. Edmund's brother William, afterwards Col. William Munroe, was an ensign in the same





regiment and his kinsman, Abraham Munroe, was a lieutenant in the 3rd regiment. Probably Abraham was a son of Edmund's uncle, Capt. Thomas Munroe. Amos Locke was in Whiting's company and Robert Munroe was in the regiment. Most of the names however would be perfectly unknown to the present inhabitants of Lexington.

There seems to be but little tradition or knowledge of the French war left in Lexington. The only person from whom the writer could gain any information about it was Mr. Amos Locke. In reply to a question if he remembered hearing anything about the French war, he said, "All that I can tell you is that I remember when I was a little boy hearing my grandfather, Amos Locke, say that he with others was captured at Ticonderoga and that the French turned them out into a pasture without food and kept them there until they became so famished that they gnawed the bark from the black birch trees to still their hunger."

Col. Hear's regiment went to Crown Point and served from April to Dec. 1761 - 32 weeks and 2 days. Then the men were discharged but most of them reenlisted in other companies.

Edmund Munroe served as a lieutenant in Capt. Job Williams' Company in Saltonstall's regiment from the winter of 1761 to the spring of 1762. He was also adjutant of the regiment. A portion of a commission exists signed by Governor Bernard and a note on it says it was a commission to Edmund Munroe to act as adjutant of Saltonstall's regiment.

While serving with Rogers he must have acquired a good knowledge of woodcraft which was recognized by the commanding officer, for on the 17th of January, 1762, Lieutenant Colonel Elliott, Commanding his Majesty's forces in the Northern District, orders Lieutenant Munroe to set out with 4 men and carry the mail to Chamblé and deliver it to the officer commanding that port and inform him that by his Excellency General Cagé's orders he is to forward





the mail to Montreal at once. Lieut Munro was then to remain at Chambli till he received Gage's orders to return, and the commanding officer at Chambli was ordered to give him and his men quarters and provisions. Lieutenant Munro was to see that the mail got no damage from rain or otherwise and to forward his orders to Lieut. Maturin, General Gage's Secretary at Montreal who would return them to him with the General's orders.

Probably Lieut. Munro and his 4 men started out as Rogers' men did in winter on snow-shoes with their skates on their shoulders and dragged their packs behind them on Indian sledges.

He delivered his mail at Chambli and waited for the return mail to come back from Montreal. It was accompanied by a letter from Lieut. Maturin to Lieut. Munro returning his orders from Col. Elliott and stating that General Gage desires him to take charge of a bag of letters and deliver it to Col. Elliott at Crown Point and the General requests him to set out with his men at once from Chambli and sends him a pass which will entitle him to all assistance necessary. The pass is as follows:

By the Honourable  
Thomas Gage

Colonel of His Majesty's Regiment of Light Armed Foot, Major General, Governor of Montreal and its dependancies and commanding His Majesty's Forces in that Government.

Permit the bearer, Lieut. Munro of the Massachusetts Regiment, and four men of the Provincials, to pass from hence to Crown Point, being charged with letters from His Excellency General Amherst and the officers commanding at the several posts are hereby required to give all possible assistance in forwarding them to the place of their destination.

Given under My Hand and Seal this 30th day of January, 1762.

Thomas Gage.

To all whom it may concern.

By the General's Command,  
G. Maturin.

This trip must have taken about thirty days.





There is an agreement which shows that he began to act as adjutant of the 4 Provincial regiments at Crown Point and Ticonderoga as early as November, 1761. It is as follows, viz:

Crown Point, July 1, 1762.

Whereas Mr. Edmund Munro has served as an adjutant in the Massachusetts forces last Winter by order of the Governor of this place and by virtue of a warrant Granted to him last year by Governor Barnard, and whereas the aforesaid Munro is under some apprehensions that the Massachusetts Government will not grant him his pay for his doing the duty as an adjutant from the 17th of Nov. last till the 4th day of March 1762

For and in consideration of a Note of Hand given to me the Subscriber Payable to me or my order for the sum of three pounds Lawful Money, Bearing equal date with this, I do hereby covenant seal and make sure and if the Province does not pay him the aforesaid Munro for the service aforementioned, in that case I promise to pay or cause to be paid unto him the pay allowed for the service of an adjutant for the term of time aforesaid in 6 months. And witness my hand.

N.B. If the aforesaid Munro did not receive a Warrant or Commission to serve as adjutant last year in Col. Hoar's Regt. then the above obligation to be void and of none effect. But if he did receive a warrant or commission to act as adjutant then the above obligation to remain in full force and effect.

Jno. Sellen.

Teste: Thomas Cowden

Note

Another commission was given to him in 1762 by Nathan Whiting, Colonel of the 2nd Regiment of Foot of the Connecticut troops and commanding the Provincial Troops at Crown Point appointing him (E. Munro) as Adjutant of the Provincial Troops at that place. There were 4 regiments of provincial troops stationed at Crown Point: Whiting's, Ingersoll's, Saltonstall's and Coffe's. Coffe's were New Hampshire troops, Whiting's from Connecticut

Note: By Nathan Whiting, 1762. Colonel of 2nd Regiment of foot of the Connecticut troops and commanding the provincial troops at Crown Point.

To Edmund Munro, Centn. Greeting: By virtue of the power and authority vested in me as commanding the Provincial troops at Crown Point I do by these presents, reposing special trust and confidence in your loyalty, courage, good conduct, constitute and appoint you, the said Edmund Munro, to be adjutant of the Provincial troops at Crown Point. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of an adjutant in leading, ordering and exercising the said troops in arms, both inferior officers and soldiers and to keep them in good order and discipline and they are hereby commanded to obey you as their adjutant and you are yourself to observe and follow such orders and instructions which you shall from time to time receive from your commanding officer or orders of your superior officers according to military rule and Discipline pursuant to the trust reposed in you. 1762.





and Saltonstall's from Massachusetts. Some regulars were also there, the Royal Americans and the 80th Regiment. All of the Provincials were discharged in June 1763 after the Treaty of Peace was signed.

There was much speculation in land in new townships in the last century and people in the eastern towns of Mass. were continually moving 50 or 100 miles further from the Coast. Many of the families which lived in Lexington at the time of the French war moved away and the old muster-rolls show a surprising number of names now not found in Lexington.

The speculation in new townships was very common among the soldiers in the French war. They made notes of the different places through which they passed and after the war was over many of them migrated to the places that took their fancy.

In 1762 Edmund Munro of Concord bought of John Cummings for £40 Lawful money, 1/63 of Township No. 5 in Berkshire "which township said Cummings bought at a public vendue at Boston." He (Edmund) also owned land in Bridport in the County of Albany, N. Y. and in Pelham.

The French had been conquered in America by 1760 and the forces of '61, '62 and '63 performed the duties of an army occupying a subdued region. The forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point were rebuilt. The orderly books of an adjutant in time of war are generally uninteresting. In times of comparative peace it is very dull. Adjutant Munro's book gives little beyond the daily parade or pass word and the different details of men who were sent to work on the fort. The men who were to repair the batteaux, those who were to roll provisions and those who were to cut wood. The wood was landed "by the Provincial Brewery." Every evening a commissioned officer from each Company attended the roll call and saw that the men were marched to prayers.





He makes record of several court martials and the sentences that were passed. A couple are given below to show the severity of the punishments:

Sept. 19, 1762. Jos. Spencer and Wm. Hyde found guilty by the court martial of leaving their work and playing cards in the case mates are sentenced to receive 50 lashes each on the naked back to-morrow Morning in front of the Grand Parade while the men are assembling for work.

At the same time another man was sentenced to receive 100 lashes on his naked back for striking a man with his jumper.

Oct. 19, 1762, a court martial tried Robt. McKnight, Jas. Colby and Peter McAllister for willfully absenting themselves from their regiment and neglect of duty. They were found guilty and the following punishment was ordered, viz: "Robt. McKnight do receive 800 lashes on his naked back with the Cat-o-nine tails. Jas. Colby do receive 600 lashes in the same manner and Peter McAllister 300 in the same manner.

The adjutant of Coffe's to see the sentence of Robert McKnight and Jas. Colby put in execution by the Drums of the line at 5 o'clock this evening, the surgeon of Coffe's to attend the execution.

Col. Whiting in consideration of the youth of Peter McAllister who the Court has recommended to mercy and of some favorable circumstances in his Behaviour think proper to remit his Punishment, he must be marched with the others to see the execution and dismissed.

Robert McKnight to receive 200 lashes at the head of each regiment and James Colby to receive 150 lashes at the head of each regiment. The Surgeon to judge if they are capable to receive the whole at once."

Note: If it is not mentioned in this record, I would say that you find little about Rogers' Rangers in State records, probably because they were soldiers of the King and not the Province and their records are very likely with Gen. Amherst's papers. I wrote to the Public Record Office and they told me these papers were not docketed. I got the impression they were just as they had been sent back to England after the war, lying in bags unopened.





In 1761 Spain joined France in the war with England and in 1762 the English attacked many of the Spanish provinces and islands and had taken Havana and the Phillipine Islands. A French squadron attacked St. Johns New Foundland and took it with its weak garrison. General Amherst sent his brother Lt. Col. Amherst to St. Johns and he retook it and made the French prisoners. The following entry refers to this:

"Sat. Oct. 23, 1762. Col. Whiting with Pleasure acquaints the Troops of the Retaking of St. Johns and all Newfoundland which surrendered to his Majesty's troops under the command of Col. Amherst the 18th of Sept. last."

A fragment of a letter written by Sarah Munroe Bowman to her son Edmund is still preserved. It is written in a clear hand and looks like the copy in a writing book. And she undoubtedly follows the "complete Letter Writer" of that period.

Lexington, Jan. 18, 1763.

Beloved Son:

These may inform you that we are all well thro Divine Goodness and our desire and prayer is that these may find you in Health and Prosperity. We rec'd your letter Dated December 2nd and are very glad to Hear of your Wellfare but are surprised beyond measure to learn that you have never had any letters from us

neglected no opportunity of sending  
to your own Directions

It is endorsed

To Edmund Munroe  
Lieut. in Capt.  
Job Williams' Company  
at Crown Point.

On the other leaf of the sheet is a scrap of a letter from some friend to him.

Intirely Beloved Friend:

Having sent you a number of Letters which I suppose have shared the common fate with the Rest that have been sent for I have never rec'd any from you. I would add a line or two and let you know that I'm still alive. I might have improved an opportunity of enquiring.....



Edmund's eldest sister, Sarah, had married Wm. Tidd of Lexington in 1762 and they moved to New Braintree after their marriage. Word was sent to Mrs. Bowman that her daughter was dying in childbed and she at once started alone from Lexington on horseback and rode over the rough roads and through the lonely woods a distance of seventy miles and reached New Braintree at nightfall only to find that her daughter had died a couple of hours before her arrival.

In the summer of 1763 "Edmund Munro, Gentleman", came back to Lexington. In New England in the last century and in the early part of the present century, the children of an intestate took equal portions of his estate with the exception of the eldest son, who took a double portion. It was the custom for the eldest son to buy out the shares of the other children and to assume the whole estate.

Accordingly, in the Fall he bought back from his brothers and sisters their shares of his father's estate and by 1764 came into possession of the whole of it except his mother's 3rds.

From allusions in subsequent papers he apparently employed himself in getting the farm into shape and also worked at his trade of Cordwainer.

I have stated that there was a tradition in the family in the last century that one of the Munroes who were brought to this country settled in Little Compton or Bristol.

Mr. Locke, the Compiler of the Book of the Lockes, seems to have drawn his knowledge of the Munroes from some very good source. He says in his book:

Note:	Deeds:				1763
	76-263	Sarah Munroe to Edmund of Concord, gentleman,	5 a.	17 rods	
	76-264	Katharine Munroe " " "		4 1/2	
	76-265	Wm. Munroe " " "	3 a.	90 rods	
	76-266	Nehemiah Munroe " " "	5 a.	32 "	





"I have a letter written by a Hector Munroe in 1764 who I suppose was a soldier in the King's army in the French war and had been recently discharged:-

Rehoboth, Feb. 1764.

Sir:

Having the opportunity I Make Bould to Trouble you with these few lines to let you know that I am in good State of helth Since I Parted with you. And hopping that these few Lines Will find you the same, the very same Day I parted with you I came into Boston and the nixt Day I went out in order to find some employment. But I could find non neither for Me or for Donald and I stayed eight Days on my own Exspences without gaining a farthing which I feelling My purse turning very Low we packs up Bags and Bagage in order to go to New York. So we marched of from Boston that very same Day and came to Providence and as I was very Qurious Inquiring after My Relations and Kinsmen I was informed that their was a great many of them in Rehoboth and in Bristol within six mile of Providence and that same hour we marched of in order to find them out which we Did that same night with on Nathan Munro as steatly a man as you ever Seied of the name, and he Keeped us with him Two Days, and the third Day he convoyed us to his fathers house a good stately old man and a man that hath a great Dail of Regard for his Relations and he Keeped us four Day and the fift Day he and Nathan went along with us in order to show us the Rest of our relations down at Bristol and the very first house we Came to was Doctor Munro Captain Thomas Munro's Son at Concord and Made Great Dail of us and So Did the Rest Lickwise and we stayed but few Days and came up again to our first harbour. In which we Remains till this Day and Live as Hapy as the King of Great Britain for their is Nothing wanting with us that is good for Mans use of which Truths the Bearer can inform you of the Same as will as I can tell you hear. Dear Cousin I was informed by the newest papers that His Majesty has ordered some lands to be granted to the Reduced Officers and soldiers that have a mind to Remen in this country But where it is to be Disterbuted I know not where to look for it except you know something of it, and if you Do I hop you ell be so good as to Let me know of it in the answer of this.

Sir I have no fresh newest to inform you of, the Doctor and his family is very well and Lickwise he hath got Business enough and will be Regarded among the Relations and others. The Doctor and Rest of your friends Joyn their Complements to you. Dear Sir be so good as to give my Complements to Captain Thomas Munro of Concord and William Munro at Lexington and Lickwise to all the Rest of our friends that enquire for Me. Not forgetting yourself, in Doing this you will oblige your humble servent,

Hector Munro."

This letter seems to show that the relationship was recognized in the middle of the last century.

Note: I suppose all Munroes were cousins.  
I should suppose this letter was to Edmund.

Note





Note

On March 1st, 1765, the town expressed the opinion that it was time for Edmund Munroe to get married for he was elected to the responsible position of Hog Reeve, an office almost invariably held by newly married men.

In 1767 Lt. Munro was in Montreal for a receipt shows that he bought there some pewter dishes and basins and a set of knives and forks.

In 1768-69 it appears from his memorandum book that Edmund Munroe was the active member of a company composed of about a dozen Lexington and Concord men and a Dr. Taylor of Lunenburg who was probably a son-in-law of Dr. Prescott of Concord. The purpose of this company was to send cattle, horses, oxen and sheep to Crown Point and Stone Arabia or Lansingburgh as it was afterwards called, and sell them in that vicinity to the soldiers and immigrants who were settling that region and to buy furs of them.

The fact that he was in Montreal in 1767 would indicate that he began this venture as early as that year. In 1768 he made two trips to Crown Point with oxen, sheep, groceries and shoes, for after his return from the army, beside getting his farm into proper condition he took up his old trade of shoemaker and made and mended shoes for his neighbours and carried a supply of shoes with him to sell at Crown Point. A note of recommendation to Edw. Raymond at Chamblé and a couple of allusions to his trip to Canada show that his trip took him to Canada. He drove his cattle up to Charlestown, N. H. and then followed the path "Through the Woods", which had been cut out by Capt. John Stark in 1759 between Crown Point and Charlestown, N.H. He was accompanied by Burdoo, a negro who lived on the Bedford Road up by the Beeds, and by Egge Merriam, who was probably the same person who figures in the Town Records as the pauper Egnatious Merriam who with his five children had apparently wandered in from some other place and become a burden on

Note: It was apparently a joke on Edmund.





the town. They lived with the widow Abigail Harrington in the house in which Jonathan Harrington afterwards lived who died at his threshold on the day of the Battle of Lexington.

The first trip was made in April and in May he sold his goods to Captains, lieutenants and soldiers at Crown Point, mostly Scotchmen, and brought back from them the furs of moose, deer, raccoon, beaver, musquash and sable. He had commissions from Lexington people to buy beaver to make hats, among others his brother William gave him an order for "beaver for seven hatts."

A memorandum shows that while at Crown Point he received commissions to buy several yoke of oxen and 50 or 60 sheep, shoes for a number of people, a right of land in Bridport which was in what we now call Vermont near Lake Champlain, Ginger and Careyway Seed for the baker, indigo, worsted, black Bajaloney handkerchief, a pigeon net, large Quill of cod line, powder, an almanack, a razor and a pair of shoes for Mr. Raymond at Chamblis.

On June 1, 1763, he started again for Crown Point and was back in Lexington again July 25th for he makes the note that on that day he began to board with John Buckman, who had just married Ruth Stone and who owned and lived in the house which William Munroe, Edmund's brother, bought of him in 1770 and which was occupied by William as a tavern.

While on these trips he had bought a right in the town of Bridport in the County of Albany, Province of N. Y., himself; and had probably intended to move there, for on Nov. 12, 1763, Eln. Munro, farmer, of Bridport, gives a power of attorney to Paul Moore, farmer, of Bridport, "to sue for and collect and receive all sums due him, all sums of money, debts, goods, wares, etc."





He made an accounting to the Company of the various sums due them, amounting to some £160. and they, like the town in 1765, thought that he was too good a man to remain a bachelor, for they returned his account with the following note on the margin:

"We are thinking as you have got your farm in so good order that you would do well to marry."

On Dec. 29/68 he "laid a wager with Mrs. Hayward the condition of which wager is, If I am married within 3 years she is to give me a set of chinay cups and saucers and if not I forfeit a set and am to pay them to her."

On the 13th of March, 1766, John Buckman, the elder, who resided at what we call the Munroe Tavern, Jonathan Harrington, Leonard Whiting and Nahum Wilder entered into a copartnership to carry on Potash works at Buckman's dwelling house, each person promising to carry his proportionate part of the works and to share equally in Loss and Gain. The Company agreed "to pay and defray all necessary charges that should arise in carrying on the business and to divide the Potash at the Works when made or in such other way as should be thought best by the Company." It was signed by

In the presence of	Jno. Harrington
Jonas Stone, Justice	Leonard Whiting
John Buckman, Jr.	Nahum Wilder

This Whiting was probably Leonard Whiting of Westford who had a company in Saltonstall's regiment in 1762 in which were about a dozen Lexington men.

Like many a business, for some reason it did not prove satisfactory to all the partners and on the 12th day of May, 1769, John Buckman of Lexington, yeoman, leases to Edmund Munro of Lexington, Gentleman, 3/4 of a Potash Works now in Lexington near the dwelling house improved by Mr. Wm. Munroe, the premises being in the tenor and occupation of John Buckman, for 3 years from June 10, 1769, to June 10, 1772, Edmund agrees to pay him £10 lawful money, £6 on June 10, 1770, £6 June 10/71 and £6 June 10/72 and to let him

It was a very interesting day. I went to the office and saw the manager. He was very kind and helpful. He gave me some advice and I was very grateful. I also went to the bank and saw the cashier. He was very friendly and gave me some information. I was very happy to see them and to talk to them. I was very lucky to have them and to be able to see them. I was very glad to see them and to be able to see them. I was very happy to see them and to be able to see them.

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I was very happy to see them and to be able to see them.



have 10 loads of ashes that have been used and thrown out and will leave the kettles of said Potash works as good as when he took them.

John Buckman the elder had died in February 1768.

It appears from this lease that Am. Munroe had already made changes in the dwelling house. John was about to leave it, for what we call the Buckman Tavern, which had belonged to his wife's father, Sam. Stone. The papers conveying the dwelling house to William were made in 1770.

One would judge from a few entries in his note book that in 1769 Edmund had looked after his farm in the early spring, made a number of shoes and then taken hold of this potash business with John Buckman as a partner. John Buckman also did some coopering. This business of making potash employed a good proportion of Edmund's time in 1769 and 1770 for his memorandum book gives a long list of names of people to whom he sold Potash and Ashes in those years. The list includes most of the inhabitants of the town.

In the spring of 1769 Edmund had a quarrel with one of his fur-trading company, Dr. Prescott of Lunenburg, who seems to have been a son-in-law of Dr. Prescott of Concord. In Lt. Munroe's memorandum book there are a few notes on a page, evidently referring to this dispute but they are too brief to be intelligible. One can see that he is thoroughly confident of the justice of his case and is collecting evidence. Both felt that they were right. It is always so. Each considered the other as lacking in fairness. This is also customary. The doctor admitted that Edmund had a claim but objected to the amount. His view of the matter is set forth in a letter to

Mr. Edmund Munroe

in

Lexington

at Landlord Ramont's in Lexington.

Note: Landlord Raymond's tavern was at the Mulliken house.



This tavern was on the spot where Mr. Neal's house stands and Edmund probably boarded with him before going to board with John Buckman. In earlier days it had been a successful tavern under Jonathan Raymond. Dr. Caleb Rea, in his diary of 1758, writes of riding over Charlestown Neck and seeing the body of a negro "hanging in gibbets", who had been executed there two years before for the murder of his Master Captain John Codman.

Dr. Rea passed through Lexington and spent two days at the Raymond tavern, where he was well entertained and the landlord would not receive a penny in pay. Dr. Rea was from Beverly and the Raymonds had come from the same town. Jonathan died in 1759 and in 1763 his widow Hepsibah married Captain Thomas Munroe of Concord, Edmund's uncle. He died in 1766 and about 1769 Hepsibah married a Beverly man. John Raymond, the crippled son was trying to keep the tavern but it was running down fast. The times were hard and in addition to the potash business John Buckman was also a "retailer of spirits," and the competition of his country store with its dry and wet goods was too great and poor John Raymond's business was on its last legs.

This letter from Dr. Taylor shows that he was a cool-headed man and could write with a sufficient degree of sarcasm.

Note 1: This gallows was down at Mt. Vernon St. just by the line between Charlestown and Somerville on the town ledge. Old Somerville people talked about it when I was a boy.

Note 2: John Buckman was only a little way from Raymond.





LIFE OF CAPTAIN EDMUND MUNRO

VOL. II.

M. J. Canavan,

282 Washington St.,

B. 3.





Lunenburg, May 15, 1769.

Sir:

I have rec'd your complaisant letters wherein you so repeatedly accuse me with imposing upon you and say that is the judgment of your Partner also. As to his opinion I Conclude it is formed upon your Story only therefore I have nothing further to say as to that as to you acertion I positively Deny it and firmly believe had it not been you are conscious to yourself you endeavored to impose upon me & Since you are Convinced that you are unable to cary your Point you would never have made up of that Complaisant expression And as to what you Say with regard to my Declining a Settlement it is so far from being the Case that I have already put myself to a good deal of Expense both of Time and Treasure besides tendering to you the utmost that was your Due to accomodate the affair, and as to your accusing me with not abiding my agreement I Suppose you mean my not attending at the time appointed at Concord but if I had accused you with the like fault you might reasonably have Concluded I meant the Judgment we both requested and both promised to abide to which if you had adhered you would have Saved your self and me both the loss of Time & Money but I am not guilty of that Breach of Promise with which you accuse me for our agreement at Boston was to meet at said time and place appointed unless Something prevented which we then knew not of and before I left Boston I was acquainted with Business of importance which I was obliged to attend which I then knew not of at the very time above mentioned and near Thirty miles Distance from the Place that we had proposed to meet. Therefore although I was obliged to return by the way of Waltham & Dr. Russell's in Lincoln I also gave my self the trouble of a roundabout Tour by way of your Lodging and requested a Settlement before





I came home which you are pleased to term unreasonable and as I was informed that you was at the Widow Stones also followed you there. I also taryed in Concord untill the next Day hoping to se you & to settle everything betwixt us till I was informed by one of your neighbours that you would not come As to my not Sending to you when I was Since at Concord the reason was truly that I went late in the evening & was obliged to return the next morning with my wife & child Neither have I had any other opportunity since I saw you. As to Saying you Determine to take what satisfaction the Law will give you and that you have evidence enough to support & maintain the action & that you have taken advice and are assured that you shall recover the utmost of your Demands- if that all be fact you will undoubtedly maintain your Cause but it seems as though you did not fully believe yourself what you so positively asert otherwise there would be no foundation for you afterwards to request of me to make some generous proposal to accomodate the affairs I think Sir that I have already made you all the reasonable proposals that any man in reason can Desire but if you Chuse Law before the Judgment of the gentleman pitched upon your choise will not be disagreeable to me. You say your council tells you that you will obtain the whole of your Demands- My Council also tells me that I have already offered you more than either Law or reason will give you but as both of them have their opinion on hearing one side only I conclude it will not be wisdom to Lay much Stress thereon but notwithstanding all if you are Disposed to abide the Judgment of the gentleman as Chose at Concord I will meet you at Mother Prescotts on Monday ye Twenty ninth day of this present May at about three or four of the clock in the afternoon then and there to decide the case & if you Comply herewith I Shall depend on a Seasonable Answer from you in Writting otherways shall conclude that you chuse the Law and I am willing you should take your choice.

from Sir your friend & servt. John Taylor

To Mr. Edmund Munro in Lexington.





It is to be hoped that these two estimable gentlemen met at the house of Mother Prescott and discussed the matter before their mutual friend and that as each stated his case, the other saw certain strong points in it that had not struck him before and felt less sure of his own view of the matter and that the intervention of their friend enabled them to come to an amicable settlement.

It would seem that this must have been the case for a couple of notes in his memorandum book show that in October, 1769, he was again at Crown Point dealing with some of the Scotchmen mentioned in his trip in 1768. and that in that year he paid his associates

Col. Prescott  
Mr. Wheeler  
Mr. Whitmore  
Capt. Hastings  
Major Willard  
Doctor Taylor  
Mr. Toothaker  
Mr. Stone  
Mr. Bradshaw

about £300.

This Mr. Bradshaw was probably Abraham Bradshaw a hatter and he seems to have been a precursor to Stephen Robbins and Ambrose Morell in the fur business. (Abraham lived where Bowen Tufts afterwards lived on the Mt. Tabor Road.)

In 1769, Edmund's old commander, Major Robert Rogers, after a rather shady career as Commander at Michili Mackinac, had been deposed and had gone to England to endeavor to clear himself and to urge his claims. While over there he was riding in a stage coach over Hounslow Heath when a highwayman stopped the coach and poking his pistols in at the window, ordered the passengers to pass out their money and watches. They were doing this when Rogers,





whose strength was remarkable, reached out and grabbing the man by the collar of his coat, pulled him into the coach through the window, sat on him and made him a prisoner. The highwayman was an old offender for whose capture a reward of £50 had been offered which Rogers claimed and received.

On Aug. 16/1769, Edmund Munro made a Power of Attorney "to Wm. Gray of Boston, Physician but lately sailed for London", "to demand and by all lawful means recover and receive of Major Robert Rogers lately Commander at Michilimackinack and now gone to London, wages £18-17s6d in N.Y. Currency due me, Edmund Munro".

Very likely these wages were for his services as adjutant of Rogers' Rangers.

On the 31st of August, 1769, he married Rebecca Harrington, the daughter of Jonathan Harrington, who lived in the house near Pierce's Station, Lexington, now occupied by Mr. Walter Wellington, at the corner of Maple St. and Massachusetts Avenue. In the early part of this century the house was a low lean-to, plastered on the outside. It was probably a house built by Percival Hall in the beginning of the last century (18th)

Jonathan Harrington was a farmer, whose earlier occupation had been that of blacksmith, and on the other side of the highway lived his brother Robert who still carried on the blacksmith shop.

In front of Jonathan Harrington's house stands one of the largest elms in New England. Rebecca Munroe told her grandchildren that her father on a return trip from Salem pulled up an elm shoot and used it to brush the flies from his oxen. When he got home he planted it and it grew into this fine tree. She said she was 3 or 4 years old when he did this. Jonathan's wife was the widow Abigail Dunster. They had several children and his sons



built houses on his land below him on the Main St. One of his sons, Jonathan or "Daunt" Harrington, was the last survivor of the Battle of Lexington and died in 1854.

Rebecca Harrington Munro was an estimable woman, dearly loved by her husband as his letters will show, and though by his early death she was deprived of his support she struggled along through life with the courage and virtues displayed by Edmund's mother in her widowhood.

In 1770 & 71, Edmund was still engaged in the potash business. It was probably not a profitable business for from 1771 on he seems to have lived on his farm, cultivating it, pasturing cattle, selling wood, making cider, and making and mending shoes for his neighbours.

He seems also to have renewed his friendship with Doctor Taylor, or at least his business relations with him for in November, 1775, he sold him 95 pounds of beaver.

Life in the last century was primitive and simple in comparison with life at the present day. And it was especially so in a country village like Lexington. It was then much more remote from Boston than at a later period when the bridges were built over Charles River. To reach Boston they drove over "the Great Bridge" near Harvard Square and then through Brighton, Brookline and Roxbury and entered Boston over the narrow neck. The people lived in much the same condition that exists in Cape Breton and the remote parts of Prince Edward's Island at the present day. They had farms which gave them vegetables, grain and meat, wool and flax which they spun and made into clothes themselves, hides which they carried to the tanner to be tanned and then had made into shoes. Every house was a factory and during the winter the women spun flax and wool till 10 or 11 o'clock at night and wove it into cloth and had a tailor or tailoress cut it into shape





for clothes which they generally made themselves. At night the men made implements and furniture, rakes, ox-bows, chairs and tubs.

As the winter came on they killed an ox and a couple of pigs and salted down some pork in the powdering tubs and hung the sides of bacon and hams in the big chimney to be smoked. The women dipped their candles and dyed their yarn; and in the spring made soap from the lye made of the wood ashes saved during the winter and from the refuse grease. Soap making lasted 2 or 3 days.

The small houses were unpainted and they were not plastered till the Revolution. Down stairs they were ceiled up inside but were full of draughts. In the cellar was a long row of barrels of cider, which was what they mostly drank. A keg of rum was also on tap. Turnips and cabbages, pumpkins and squashes were the vegetables most generally used. Potatoes were little known in the middle of the last century and were but little used as late as the first quarter of the present century. Another curious thing is the fact that neither men, women nor children wore woolen under-clothes till after 1830.

The great luxury of women was tea, their greatest dissipation to make calls in the afternoon and have a dish of tea and to gossip over it. The women were fond of silks and finery, china and silverware, and scrimped to have them. The men had an assortment of wigs and clothes. Not new clothes. The men and women had the clothes their parents left them, and to these added a substantial suit or two of their own.

It might seem to those not familiar with the last century, that the fact that Edmund Munro was a shoemaker and cobbler, shows that his must have been a very humble life, and that he could not have been a prominent man in the town. But the knowledge of a trade was a great boon. It was the





one way to earn money. Meat and drink, and the materials for shoes and clothes came from the farm. But the three or four pounds cash that the farmer needed during the year were hard to get. The man who could turn the raw material into finished goods had a great advantage. Every careful parent sought to have his child know some trade. There was scarcely a house along the main highway in Lexington, in which there was not a blacksmith, a tanner, a cooper, a cabinet maker, a harness maker, a clock maker, a tailor or a weaver. All had their farms, and in addition to farming, they worked at their trade in leisure moments.

Coming back from the French war after five years of service, and having associated somewhat with British officers of good social position, Edmund must have largely outgrown village ways of thought and life. His inventory shows that he had a good supply of clothes and they were partly those of a city gentleman; the "Strait bodied coat", the ruffled shirts, the silk stockings, the silver shoe buckles indicate this. Beside this gala dress, he had a velvet jacket, a white jacket, a red jacket, a white fustian jacket, thread gloves, white stockings and the common clothes. He had a quantity of books, glass and china, delph stone and pewter ware, looking glasses, "a number of picters", a mahogany table, silver ware, a punch bowl, a warming pan, andirons, a binning wheel, a wooling wheel, a fine supply of kitchen utensils, Pots and Kettels, glass bottels, and wooden bottels, saddle bags, tin lamps, Pistols, a sword which had been taken from some French officer, and given to him in the French war and which he wore in the Revolution. Wampum belts and a powder horn curiously carved with a map of Crown Point on it. Knives and forks, trammels and skillets, candlesticks, a silver porringer and pap spoon which had belonged to President Dunster of Harvard College and which belonged to Edmund's wife.





But though he returned from the French war with money and was able to buy these fine things, he was out of joint with his surroundings. He sought to escape the slavery of a farmer's life but his potash works and his fur trade were not a success and stern necessity drove him to his farm and shoemaker's bench, and he did not succeed with these either.

It would be absurd in an article like this to give the History of the Province and to discuss the causes that led to the American Revolution. It is sufficient to give a brief summary of the steps taken by the town.

Although the clergy had been shorn of the political power by the new charter granted by William & Mary, yet the colony had been founded as a religious state and the ministers retained much of their old authority.

The Rev. Jonas Clarke was an able man and a polished gentleman. He governed the town with a firm but gentle hand. Like most of the ministers he strongly opposed the aggressive acts of Parliament and was an intimate friend of the patriot leaders. Credit must be given to him for the forcible Resolves and Declaration of Rights at the Lexington town meetings, and he probably wrote the letters of instructions to their deputies.

On the 21st of Oct/65, the town instructed Wm. Reed, their Deputy at the General Court, to oppose the Stamp Act and "to promote such measures as would preserve them the rights and liberties they possessed and to assert and maintain them, so that the world might see that they knew and valued their rights and did not tamely resign them for chains and slavery."

In 1767 a duty was put upon red and white lead, paint, paper and tea, and when the Town of Boston voted not to import these articles, the town of Lexington at a town meeting voted to concur with the town of Boston and not to import these commodities.





In 1768 the town voted that levying taxes without their consent and keeping a standing army among them in a time of peace was a violation of their rights and they appointed a suitable person to join with others sent from the several towns of the Province to consult and advise what may be best for the public good.

On Nov. 3rd, 1772, the Committee of Correspondence was established and soon after the town of Lexington appointed a committee to confer with the Committees of other towns on matters of common concern.

Early in December, 1773, it was voted at a town meeting, "If any head of a family or any person shall from this time forward and until the duty be taken off purchase any tea or sell or consume any tea in their families, such person shall be looked upon as an enemy to this town and to this country and shall be treated with neglect and contempt."

On Dec. 16, 1773, the tea was thrown overboard at Boston and as soon after the Boston Port Bill was passed which forbade any ship to enter or to leave the Port of Boston.

When the news of this reached America the Committee of Correspondence sent out invitations to eight neighbouring towns to meet at Boston. Committees from Charlestown, Cambridge, Newton, Brookline, Roxbury, Dorchester, Lynn and Lexington met May 14, 1774, and denounced the Port Bill and solicited aid and support for Boston.

In September, 1774, the province store of gun powder in the old powder house at Somerville was seized and also some field pieces at Cambridge. Several thousand rebels collected the next day and called Lt. Gov. Oliver and several mandamus councillors before them and invited them to resign their seats and to declare that they would never hold any office by virtue of the Specified unconstitutional acts. Mr. Oliver and the councillors complied and the rebels dispersed.





Sept. 26, 1774, a Committee composed of Captain Bowman, Deacon Brown and Lieut. Edmund Munro were chosen to draft instructions for their representatives. The instructions were as follows: "The alarming situation of our public affairs being so distressing as at present and our council being chosen by a mandamus from the King, whose authority as a council we cannot own nor consent to, We therefore having made choice of Deacon Stone as our Representative, Instruct you to use your utmost influence at the General Court that nothing be there transacted as a court under the new council or in conformity with any of the late Acts of Parliament."

At meetings in November and December, 1774, the town voted "to provide a suitable quantity of flints", "to bring two cannon from Watertown and mount them", "to furnish bayonets at the town's cost for one-third of the training soldiers," "to have the militia and alarm list meet for a view of their arms."

So things went from bad to worse till at last Gage sent out the expedition which resulted in the Battle of Lexington.

In 1774, the company of Minute Men was formed and their Articles of Association and Rules and Regulations still exist. Lt. Munro from his long service and position in the army would have been more familiar with drawing up such papers than any other person in the town, and he was probably asked to do this, and what is apparently the original draft in the handwriting of Edmund Munro is in the possession of Dr. Francis H. Brown. The articles are as follows:

"We, whose names are hereto subscribed, having agreed to associate ourselves together to improve ourselves in the Art of Military do agree to

Bind ourselves to the following articles, viz:

1. To choose a Captain, Lieutenant and Ensign once a year.
2. To choose Serjeants and Clerk once a year.
3. To meet in order for Discipline four times a year.
4. We agree that every of us being Absent when the Roll is called





being duly warned shall pay a Fine of eight pence unless a good excuse can be given to the Satisfaction of the Company for his or their absence.

5. That any Person of the Company that shall interrupt the Capt. or Commanding Officer while under Arms by talking, laughing or any Indecent Behaviour shall pay a fine of 3 shillings.

6. That if any Person of the Company shall interrupt the Clerk when calling the Roll or not answer when they are called shall pay a fine of two shillings.

7. That none shall enlist in said Company if they are under age without the consent of their Parent or Master.

8. That if any refuse to pay a Fine when properly Demanded (being duly warned) shall be dismissed from the Company forthwith.

9. That any Person desiring to be admitted into said Company or dismissed from the same shall have a vote of the Company for the same.

10. That all Fines that shall be received of the delinquent shall be applied to the sole use of the Company paying the Clerk a reasonable sum for collecting the same.

11. That the Captain failing of his duty of not calling the company together 4 times a year and disciplining them three hours at each meeting, shall pay a fine of 4 shillings, except he can give a reasonable excuse for the same to the Satisfaction of the Company.

It is difficult to make out what the position of Edmund Munro was, in regard to the matters going on around him. He took part in the town meetings and opposed the aggressive acts. He drew up the rules for the company and was a private in it. But if he had entered into the movement at this time, heart and soul, he would probably have held a higher position.

He was a conservative man. He had been an officer for 5 years, and such a man would hesitate at open rebellion.

Tradition is deceptive, not much to be relied upon. There are certain bullet holes by the front door of the Buckman Tavern. There are three distinct and perfectly reliable traditions, that the bullets were fired at three different individuals. Each story seems conclusive, until you hear the 2nd and the 3rd story.

The grandchildren of Rebecca, a daughter of Edmund Munro, who was 4 years old at the time of the fight, state that their grandmother said Lt. Munro was opposed to the rebellion and used to say, "Boys, I'm with you. I won't help you to get into trouble. But if you do get into trouble I'll help you to get out." She also asserted that he did not take part in the fight





Note for she distinctly remembered his holding her up to the window of the old house on Lowell St. that she might see the smoke and flame from the burning buildings.

On the other hand, Mrs. Gleason, at present (1897) aged 91, the daughter of Edmund's daughter Pamela, was astonished at hearing this statement. She had spent much of her girlhood in the company of her grandmother Edmund's widow, and had often heard her and her other grandmother, Mary Buckman Brown, the widow of Captain Francis Brown, talk about the fight and the story as she heard it from them was that Edmund was one of the guards in the night at the Clarke house, that after Paul Revere escaped from the British officers, he made his way to the Clarke house and Hancock and Adams became alarmed as to the safety of certain papers which they had brought from Concord in a trunk and had left in the Buckman Tavern. They sent Paul Revere and Edmund to secure the trunk and they brought it up to the Clarke house and were there when the firing took place. They accompanied Hancock and Adams to Burlington and then Edmund returned and took part in the fight later in the day. Probably either before or after he took part in the fight, he went to his house to see that his family was safe, and held little Rebecca up to the window.

On the 6th of May, 1775, a portion of Captain Parker's Company was called out for service at Cambridge by the Committee of Safety and they remained there from May 6 to May 10th inclusive. Edmund Munro was not with them. It seems that he must have been chosen as Captain of the Alarm list for by an order of the Committee of Safety the Alarm Company of the town of

Note: Rebecca did not live with her mother while growing up after the death of her father, but with other relatives, and did not have much knowledge about her father, Captain Edmund. She was a little girl when her father was killed and the family broke up. The boy Edmund lived with his uncle, Nehemiah. Mrs. Gleason said Rebecca did not have the tradition. She said about the fight on the Nineteenth of April, very likely when Edmund went home he held little Rebecca up to see the smoke of the fires.





Lexington were ordered to report at Cambridge May 16 and remained there till May 20 inclusive, serving 5 days.

The Muster Roll of this detachment is as follows:

Edmund Munro, Captain  
 John Buckman, Lieutenant  
 William Grimes, Sergeant  
 James Wyman, Corporal  
 William Reed, Esq.  
 Deacon Jonas Stone  
 Doctor Joseph Fiske  
 Doctor David Fiske  
 Hammond Reed  
 Thaddeus Parker  
 Samuel Bridge  
 Josiah Jennison  
 William Meriam  
 Thomas Fox  
 Jacob Robinson  
 Thaddeus Harrington  
 Simon Winship  
 Josiah Reed  
 Moses Reed

They were under the command of Colonel Gardner at Cambridge 5 days and each rec'd 16 pence for mileage at a penny a mile and each soldier received 7s.1d. for his 5 days' services. The Captain's pay for this time was £-1-1s-3d. By the 20th of May the Committee got over their Alarm and the Company returned to Lexington.

On the 17th of June the following order was sent to Lexington:

In Committee of Safety Cambridge, June 17. 1775.

To the Commanding Officer of the Militia in the Town of Lexington:

Sir:

You are immediately to muster the men under your command and forthwith to march them into Cambridge.

Benj. White, Chairman.



In the muster roll of Captain Parker's Company which responded to this call appears the name of Edmund Munro and after it the words "Alarm List" were written.

They did not take part in the Battle of Bunker's Hill as they were kept at Cambridge in readiness to resist any attack by the British on the main camp. They remained there June 17 & 18.

An order was passed by the Provincial Congress on June 19, 1775, which shows what the army ate.

Allowance to the army per day:

1. One pound of bread (i.e. rye and injun)
2. Half a pound of beef and half a pound of pork  
One dy in seven a pound and a quarter of salt fish instead of meat.
3. One pt. of milk or if milk cannot be had, a gill of rice
4. One quart good spruce or malt beer
5. One gill of peas or beans or the equivalent
6. Six oz. of good butter per week
7. One pound good common soap for six men per week
8. One-half pt. vinegar per week for each man if it can be had.

The inhabitants of the town had suffered heavy losses in the fight on the 19th of April, and several families on the main highway had for a time been reduced to dire poverty by the destruction of their homes. But the presence of the large army at Cambridge and Prospect Hill gave them a market for their produce. And they were of more assistance to the country in remaining at home and raising crops and cutting wood than if they had been present with the army, for beside furnishing it with sustenance, they supported themselves and could be called into active service at an hour's notice. Edmund Munro spent most of the summer and fall and winter in farming, making cider and selling wood standing and in cutting it himself and carrying it to the army. He makes a note in Nov. 1775 that Lt. McKinstry and his mess have become indebted to him for "Sundry Sauces." Very likely McKinstry was one of those men of Scotch-Irish descent who served with the Rangers and of whom there were many present with Col. Stark at Medford. He would





doubtless have sought out his old Ranger friends and renewed their acquaintance. There was a great deal of wood cutting and teaming that winter.

The Provincial Congress sent word to the town that the army was in need of wood and the town voted to allow it to be cut from the Ministerial land and during the winter sold off some 500 cords of standing wood at low prices to be cut and carried to the army at Prospect Hill.

A couple of notes refer to his letting his "Chair" to Jeremiah Crosby to go to Cambridge.

The following agreement was found in his papers and must have been signed by him before he joined the army in the summer of 1776. It is in the possession of Doctor Francis H. Brown:

"Colony of MASSACHUSETTS BAY, 1776.

We the Subscribers, Do each of us severally for ourselves, profess, testify and declare before GOD and the World, that we verily believe that the War, Resistance and Opposition in which the United American Colonies are now engaged against the Fleets and Armies of Great Britain, is on the Part of the said Colonies, just and necessary. And we do hereby severally promise, covenant and engage to and with every Person of this Colony who has or shall subscribe this Declaration, or another of the same Tenor and Words, that we will not, during the said War, directly or indirectly, in any Ways, aid, abet or assist any of the Naval or Land Forces of the King of Great Britain, or any employ'd by him; or supply them with any Kind of Provisions, Military or Naval Stores, or hold any Correspondence with, or communicate any Intelligence to any of the Officers, Soldiers or Mariners belonging to the said Army or Navy, or enlist, or procure any others to enlist into the Land or Sea Service of Great Britain, or take up or bear Arms against this or either of the United Colonies, or undertake to pilot any of the Vessels belonging to the said Navy, or in any other Way aid or assist them: But on the contrary, according to our best Power and Abilities, will defend by Arms, the United American Colonies and every Part thereof, against every hostile attempt of the Fleets and Armies in the Service of Great Britain, or any of them, according to the Requirements and Directions of the Laws of this Colony that now are, or may hereafter be provided, for the Regulation of the Militia thereof.

(Signed) Josiah Smith	Jonas Stone
Thomas Parker	John Bridge
John Chandler	Edm'd Munro
Nathan Simonds	Francis Brown
Philip Russell	Joseph Simonds
William Tidd	Daniel Harrington
Jonathan Smith	Thos. Fessenden
Hammond Reed	Nehemiah Estabrook
Jeremiah Crosby	Samson Williams
Sam'l Tidd	Joshua Bond
Robert Reed	Levi Mead
Henry Harrington	Thomas .....
Henry Harrington, Jun.	John Simonds
Joseph Fisk, Jun.	Isaac Blodgett





While the Siege of Boston was going on, an army under General Montgomery had attacked Canada. Montreal was taken but the army was repulsed at Quebec. Montgomery was killed and Arnold lost a leg and the army was forced to retreat before the British army under General Sir Guy Carleton, first to Chambli, then to St. John, then to Crown Point. The army suffered terribly from the small-pox and buried about 50 men daily and in a few months lost 5,000 men from the small-pox or desertion. One-half of the army was down with the small-pox. Gates was appointed to the command of this army and in July abandoned Crown Point and retreated to Fort Ticonderoga.

Early in the summer it was decided to raise 8,000 men of whom 3,000 were to come from Massachusetts.

Edmund Munro was appointed 1st Lieutenant in Col. Jonathan Reed's Regiment in Captain Miles' Company. The date of his appointment was July 10/76. On the 16th of July he was made Quartermaster of the Regiment. The regiment marched to Charlestown, N.H. and from there proceeded by John Stark's road "through the woods," to Ticonderoga.

On the 5th of August, Edmund wrote the following letter to his wife:  
 "Charlestown, N.H. 5th August, 1776.

My dear:

These lines wait upon you with as sincere love and respect as ever warmed the breast of man. I am in good health through divine goodness and my hearty wish is that they may find you and our little Darlings in perfect health. We shall march for Ticonderoga this day. I would have you write me every opportunity. You may send every week. If you send the letter to Buckman's as the post is there every Wednesday and will convey them to me. Our men are all in health. We have no news that is of any consequence. I have been very well used by the Field officers of the Regt. You may inform father and mother that Francis is well. My respects to all friends in general and my love Beka, pamy and the only son.

I am your Loving Husband till Death.

Edm'd Munro.

Bill Crosby is well and gives his duty to his father and mother."

Addressed on the back

To

Mrs. Rebekah Munro  
 at  
 Lexington.



On the 4th of October, Carleton advanced and on the 11th of October his vessels had a fight with the vessels under Arnold, in which Arnold was defeated and obliged to burn his vessels and escape.

On the 14th of October, Carleton was at Crown Point and waited there till the 27th. They came down and inspected Ticonderoga. Edmund wrote the following letter:

"Ticonderoga, 20th October, 1776.

My Dear:

These are to inform you that I am in good health and high Spirits through divine goodness. I wish they may find you and the little ones in perfect health and prosperity.

We have had no attack from the enemy but are hourly expecting them. The last intelligence we had from them they were at Crown Point. That was several days since. We have had several Scouts out which are expected in every hour. We hope to have intelligence of their numbers and situation by them, as we have hourly expectation of the Enemy we endeavor to be in the Best Preparation.

My compliments to all friends.

I am, My Dear, your

Loving Husband,

Edm'd Munro."

General Carleton waited at Crown Point till Oct. 27th, when he returned with his army to Canada and went into Winter quarters. On Nov. 3rd his rear guard abandoned Crown Point. Both the British and American officers were astonished at this movement on his part as he could have easily taken Ticonderoga.

Soon after, Edmund wrote as follows:

"Ticonderoga.

13th November, 1776.

My Dear:

being in great haste I have only time to inform you that I am in good health and high Spirits. Through divine goodness I hope these lines will find you and our little ones in Health, Prosperity and Happiness. The nights are cold and it is hard laying on the cold ground. The enemy have left us. Our People are in good health. We expect to march soon. If I can find out when we shall march I will send you word and shall be glad if you would send a horse to meet me.

I am my dear

Your best Friend and Loving Husband

Edm'd Munro."

The regiment was apparently discharged Nov. 30th and returned home.





There is a muster roll of Capt. Miles' Company (See Mass. Archives, Vol. 55, p. 50, File F.) apparently drawn up for the purpose of paying them for their mileage and wages from Ticonderoga home. Those from Concord rec'd mileage at the rate of a penny a mile for 180 miles, from Weston for 180 miles and from Lexington 190 miles. They also receive a day's wages for every 20 miles. It would seem from this roll that they enlisted July 12/76 and were discharged Nov. 30/76, 142 days. The following are the members of the Company:

Charles Miles, Captain,	Concord
Edmund Munro, 1st Lieut.	Lexington
Matthew Hobbs, Lieut.	Weston
Jonas Brown, Ensign,	Concord
Francis Bowman, Sergeant,	Lexington
Joseph Chandler, "	Concord
Bancroft, "	Weston
Paul Coolidge, "	Weston
Peter Wheeler, Corporal,	Concord
Ebenezer Hadley, "	Lexington
Converse Bigelow, "	Weston
David Hubbard, "	Concord
John Smith, Drummer,	Lexington
Sam'l Derby, Fifer,	Concord
Purchis Brown, Private,	"
Nathan Peirce "	"
Sam'l Wheeler "	"
Ephraim Hosmer "	"
Wm. Burridge, "	"
John Hodgman, "	"
Jonas Spaulding, "	"
Joseph Nixon, "	"
Levi Parker, "	"
Cesar Quaro, "	"
Joseph Stratton, "	"
Enoch Pratt, "	"
Abel Hosmer, "	"
John Trask, "	"
Francis Wheeler, "	"
John Cole, "	"
David Heald, "	"
Jonathan Barnes, "	"
Jacob Ames, "	"
Joseph Clearby, "	"
Jesse Hosmer, "	"
Wm. Dutton, "	"





Thomas Prescott, Private,	Weston	
James Cogswell,	"	
Reuben Hobbs,	"	
Silas Livermore,	"	
George Farrar,	"	
Lemuel Stimpson,	"	
John Stimpson,	"	
Nathaniel Bemis,	"	
John Hagar,	"	
Thomas Cory,	"	
Pomp Raymond,	Ticonderoga	
Ebenezer Smith	Concord.	Died
Amos Goodale	"	Died
Elisha Badger,	"	Deserted
Thomas Weatherby	"	
Jeremiah Hunt	"	
Jonathan Ball	"	
Eliphalet Rogers	"	
Abel Brown,	"	
Lemuel Wheeler,	"	
Reuben Hosmer,	"	
Nathaniel Draper,	"	
Joseph Burnes,	"	
Ebenezer Bowman,	Lexington	
Newhall Reed	"	
Thomas Blodgett	"	
Pomp Blackman,	"	
Ebenezer Munro,	"	
Elijah Sanderson,	"	
Joseph Cox,	"	
Benjamin Lock,	"	
Jonathan Loring,	"	
Prince Estabrook,	"	
Josiah Smith,	"	
Solomon Brown,	"	
John Hosmer,	"	
John Smith,	"	
Robert Reed,	"	
Thomas Hadley,	"	
Jonathan Munro,	"	
Wm. Crosby,	"	
David Fiske,	"	
John Osgood,	"	
Levi Mead,	"	
Samuel Danforth,	Weston	
David Sanderson,	"	
Elias Bigelow,	"	
Wm. Holmes,	"	
Benj. Rand,	"	
John Baldwin,	"	
Silas Smith,	"	
Phineas Hagar,	"	
Sam. Underwood, died,	"	
John Warren,	"	
Thomas Rand,	"	
Jonathan Underwood	"	
Solomon Parmeter	"	
Topswell Raymond,	Ticonderoga	



4 Officers, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, Drum & Pife - 73 Privates.

Pomp Blackman and Prince Estabrook were negroes. Prince Estabrook belonged to Benjamin Estabrook and tradition has it that he was a very shrewd man at a horse trade. The two Raymonds may have belonged to his old acquaintance, Mr. Raymond at Chamblis. Jonathan Deed, the Colonel of the regiment, was of Littleton, and the chaplain was Wm. Emerson of Concord.

On the 1st of January, 1777, the field officers of Col. Timothy Bigelow's regiment also known as the 15th Mass. Regiment were appointed. Edmund Munro was one of the Captains. This regiment served during 1777-78-79-80, but the following agreement would show that the original term of enlistment was for a year:

"We the subscribers do hereby severally enlist ourselves into the Service of the United States of America to continue in that service untill the tenth day of January next, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, unless sooner regularly discharged, and each of us do engage to furnish and carry with us into service a good effective fire arm and also a bayonet, cartridge box, knapsack and Blanket. We engage to be under the command of the general officers of the forces of the United States of America which are or may be appointed, and faithfully to observe and obey all Dutch orders as we from time to time shall receive from our officers.

David Fisk

Samuel his x mark Crafts."

Burgoyne began his invasion from Canada this year, 1777, and by summer had taken Ft. Ticonderoga and advanced to the Hudson. In August he sent a body of several hundred soldiers under Colonel Baum to capture the American supplies at Bennington and they were followed by a supporting force under Breyman. Both of them were defeated and most of their men killed or taken prisoners on the 16th of August, by the Americans under John Stark.

Note: Nehemiah Munro, brother of Edmund, was of Roxbury. Private: served at Nantasket June 1776 driving ships from Boston harbor, 3 days. Also, Dec. 6 to 29, 1776, probably at Hull.





The whole country was aroused and a large force surrounded Burgoyne and cut off his supplies and after the battles of Stillwater and Saratoga he surrendered on the 17th of October.

# Note

It appears from a paper in the Archives that Captain Edmund Munro, on September 1st, was on command at Van Schaick's Island in the Hudson and that Col. Bigelow and some of the officers were at home recruiting. The notes of his son state that he was present at Bennington, Stillwater, Saratoga, and at the surrender of Burgoyne's army.

Note: From Mass. Soldiers & Sailors in the War of the Revolution. Library of 20th Reg't 9.1.vol.11, Boston Pub. Library.

Edmund Munro.-- Captain in Command of detachment from Lexington, Alarm Co. Service 5 days, Cambridge, May 16 to 20, 1775.

Lieutenant serving as private in detachment from Lexington Co. under Captain Parker. Service 2 days. Reported as belonging to Alarm List at Cambridge, service June 17 & 18, 1775. Also Lieutenant in Captain Charles Miles' Co., Colonel Jonathan Reed's Regiment. Rations allowed July 12 to Nov. 30, 1776. 14 days' allowance. Rations also allowed July 10 to Nov. 30, 1776. Quartermaster. Also, Lieutenant in same company. Pay abstract for travel allowance etc. from Ticonderoga. Sworn to Feb. 19, 1777, 190 miles travel allowed him, service with Northern Army. Also, Col. Timothy Bigelow(13th) regiment. Continental pay accounts for service Jan. 1, 1777, to June 15, 1778. Reported killed. Also, same regiment, muster rolls of officers Jan. to August 1777, dated Van Schaick's Island and sworn to at Camp near Half Moon. Appointed Jan. 1, 1778. Reported on command at Albany. Also same regiment, Return of officers for clothing, dated Boston, May 15, 1778.

Edmund Munderow, account of 7 years half pay allowed, agreeable to resolves of Aug. 4/1780, towidows and orphans of officers killed in service. Colonel Bigelow's regiment. Rank of Captain. Reported killed at Monmouth June 28, 1778. Half pay allowed to June 28, 1785.

There is in the possession of Dr. Fessenden of Ashfield a pair of silver candlesticks and Mr. Munro's notes say that they formed a part of Burgoyne's camp kit which was divided up among the officers and that these candlesticks were given to Captain Edmund Munro.





The surrender of Burgoyne's army left the Northern army free and  
 Note most of the men, including the 15th Massachusetts or Bigelow's regiment,  
 were sent to the Jerseys to serve under Washington.

The following papers would indicate that it was common to free  
 negro slaves on condition of their enlisting in the army and very likely  
 the other negroes who served under Edmund - Cesar Quaro, Pomp Blackman,  
 Prince Estabrook, Jupiter Tree and the two Raymonds of Ticonderoga were  
 given their freedom in this manner.

"This may certify whom it may concern that Isaac Birbadoes, a negro  
 man that enlisted in Capt. Edmund Munro's Company and Col. Bigelow's Regi-  
 ment, was legally Discharged from his late master Before his first muster  
 for the Continental Sarvis and that the mother of the aforesaid negro Dis-  
 charged is the legal heir being born in lawful wedlock to the wages that was  
 due to said Negro when he was discharged and whereas hir master has given  
 hir hir time on Condition that she will maintain herself we think it may be  
 of great service to hir. Jona. Fox, Coll.  
 Woburn, April 25, 1778. Sam'l Belknap, Capt."

"Woburn, April 27, 1778.  
 To Capt. Edmund Munrow. Sir: Plese to pay Mr. Wm. Fry the whole wage  
 that Due to Isaac Birbadoes, a negro man in your company and Col. Bigelow's  
 Regiment, being legal discharged from his mother and was Born in wedlock  
 of my Body in so doing this shall be a discharge to you.  
 Samuel Fry Catherine Birbadoes x her mark."

The pay-roll of the regiment shows that he served from April 10,  
 1777, to Dec. 1, 1777, but he is designated Isaac Birbadoes of Shrewsbury.

During the winter of 1777-8, the American Army under Washington  
 were encamped at Valley Forge for the purpose of holding the British Army  
 under Sir Wm. Howe in check at Philadelphia. They were miserably supplied  
 with food and clothing and their suffering had been great.

A number of foreign officers had joined the army and one of them,  
 Baron Steuben who had served under Frederick the Great, had proved a great  
 help to the army, for he had taught them the tactics of the Prussian Army

Note: From the records, Edmund Munro apparently came home after Burgoyne's  
 defeat. Probably accompanied them here and was then in Col. Bigelow's  
 (13th) Regiment till he was killed June 28/1778.





so that when the spring came, the poor, tattered, half-starved Continentals were a well drilled army.

Burgoyne had returned to England and was defending himself against attacks in Parliament and Sir Wm. Howe had also been so bitterly attacked that he resigned the command of the army to Sir Henry Clinton and went home to defend himself.

There is a letter from Edmund Munro written at this time. Pomp who is referred to in it was Pomp Blackman, a negro who was wounded at the Battle of Lexington, and Levi Mead lived in a portion of the Russell House and owned the land from Woburn St. down as far as Mr. Neal's land. The letter is as follows:

"Valley Forge, May 17, 1778.

My Dear:

I send these lines with my warmest love and Respect to you and the little ones, wishing that they may find you and them and all Friends in Perfect Health and Prosperity. I am in good Health through divine goodness. I have nothing new to write you. The Lexington men are in a good State of Health, except Levi Mead and Pomp. They are not well but so that they keep about. I am going on a command to-morrow morning down to the enemy's lines. There are two thousand going on the command. I am of the mind that we Shall have a dispute with them Before we return. Give my dutifull Respects to Fathers and Mothers. Compliments to all Friends. I conclude, wishing you and the little ones the Best of Heaven's Blessings, and remain my dear

Your Most Effectionate Husband

Edm'd Munro

Inclosed is a Lancaster newspaper in which you will see the account of the grand feu de joy we had on the sixth of May instant, which is a true and particular account of that day's transaction."

Very likely the feu de joy was on account of Howe's resignation.

The Tory Government were astounded and thoroughly disheartened by Burgoyne's surrender and were further discouraged by Sir Wm. Howe's lack of success. A large part of Parliament had become convinced that the colonies could not be subdued and to the surprise of the Whigs, Ld. North shifted his ground and offered the colonies all that they had asked for at the





beginning of the revolution, provided they would return to their allegiance. Commissioners were sent to this country who arrived in June for the purpose of treating with the Colonies. The following paper which was signed the day after the foregoing letter was written shows that on that day the Army was called upon to take a new oath of allegiance to the United States and to renounce their allegiance to King George. This was evidently done for the purpose of forestalling the Commissioners.

"I, Edmund Munro, Capt. in Col. Bigelow's Regt., do acknowledge the United States of America to be free and Sovereign States and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do swear that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, main-  
tain and defend the said United States against George the Third, his heirs  
and successors, and his or their abettors, assistants and adherents and will  
serve the said United States in the office of Captain which I now hold with  
fidelity according to the best of my skill and understanding.  
Sworn to before me, Camp at                         Edmund Munro."  
Valley Forge, May 18th, 1778,  
The Baron de Kalb, Maj.Gl.

1

There is one more letter from Edmund to his wife, the last that she received from him:

"Valley Forge, 12 June, 1778.

My Dear:

I send these lines with the most affectionate love and respect to you and the children wishing they may find you in Perfect Health and Prosperity. I am well and in High Spirits through divine goodness. Lexington men are all well. News we have none except the Commissioners are arrived from Great Britain at Philadelphia in order to settle the dispute between us and them. They have sent a flag of truce. What they had to offer is forwarded to Congress. The new establishment of the army is arrived in camp. There is to be a large reduction of officers; but as it is not taken place as yet, it is not known who are to be reduced. The new arrangements are on a better footing than it was before, as it is to take place soon. I will let you know my destiny by Mr. Williams who is in a fair way to recover of the small-pox; by him I am in hopes to send you some money. I received your letter and a Pair of Gloves. I hope to reward you for your Kindness to your satisfaction. Be kind enough to let me know whether you have drawn a blank or a prize in State Lottery. My due respects to all Friends. I am my dear, your most affectionate Husband,

Edmund Munro."

It was endorsed

To Capt. Edmund Munro  
favour at  
Mr. Winship. Lexington.





In the Spring, the State sent to the Staff and Field Officers of Bigelow's Regiment, 196 yards of linen equal to 56 shirts, or two shirts for each of the 28 officers, and it also sent 28 pairs of shoes and stockings.

Sir Henry Clinton decided to evacuate Philadelphia and to concentrate his forces at New York. On the 18th of June, the rear guard marched out of Philadelphia on its way to New York. There were about 15,000 men in each army. Washington decided to attack the British and outmarched them. The advanced guard of the Americans, composed of 6000 men, was under General Charles Lee, a traitor. He was ordered to attack the British left wing, and if he had done so, the British army might have been cut off and destroyed.

Sunday, June 28th, was a very hot day. Clinton was outflanked. Lee had advanced from Freehold and occupied good ground. Wayne began an attack but was ordered by Lee to hold back and wait. Lafayette was about to attack and Lee ordered him back. Lafayette sent a message to Washington. The army was bewildered. Some of divisions were ordered back by Lee and the others, seeing this movement, began to fall back. All their advantage of position was lost. The men were exhausted by heat and began to fall into disorder.

Note Washington galloped up at this moment, turned to Lee and called him a "damned poltroon", and told the men to form into line and attack the enemy. The good results of Steubens' teaching were now shown, for the men wheeled and formed under fire as if on parade and attacked the British. The other portions of the army joined in the attack and the British withdrew to high ground and retreated in the night.

Note: This was the battle General Charles Lee ruined by not attacking, and Washington called him a d---d coward. The opinion seems to be he was a traitor.



In this battle Edmund Munro was killed, June 28, 1778. Mrs. Gleason says that Doctor Joseph Fiske used to describe the scene somewhat as follows:

"Edmund was a very set man. His whole heart was in his soldiering. He hated to have his men duck and dodge as the bullets came. He never did. There was fighting going on in the valley. We were on a hill waiting to advance. The British were on a hill on the other side of the valley and were firing cannon at us. We dodged as the balls came over and Edmund gave us a scolding for it. We saw a ball coming straight at us. I dodged to one side as did others. Edmund stood up perfectly straight and didn't budge and the cannon-ball knocked his head off and killed George Munro, his cousin, who was a private and his personal attendant, and knocked off the lower part of the leg of Thomas Fox. Though George Munro was killed there was no sign of a wound on his person."

All of the dead were buried on the battlefield in the town of Freehold. The battle was called the Battle of Monmouth Court House.

It seems evident from what we know of Edmund Munro that his great ambition was to be a good soldier. Tradition reports him to have been a cool, determined man, very set as they termed it. The scraps of information that we have of his life show him to have been a brave man. The important positions he held as adjutant of Rogers' Rangers and of the 4 Provincial Regiments at Crown Point, while he was a very young man, would not have been offered him had not his superior officers recognized in him a good clerk, and a good man of affairs, business-like and methodical. He was not a success as a farmer. His five years of soldiering had made him turn to a more adventurous life, and in his potash venture and his fur-trading he was not successful. But he had energy and push and had he lived would very likely





have become a successful business man. As it was, he died insolvent like so many other soldiers in the Revolution, and his widow and children were left poor.

We know but little of the families that were left without means by the death of a husband or a father in the Revolution, but their number was great.

On the 6th of February, 1779, the Governor's Council voted to pay to Rebecca Munro, the widow of Edmund Munro, the sum of £100. and it was paid over May 24, 1779. This was, of course, in Continental scrip and would amount to only a few hard dollars.

His half pay was continued from Jan. 1780, to June 28, 1785, and the neighbors and friends helped. The children were scattered round among relatives.

There seem to be no Muster rolls of the Companies in Bigelow's Regiment. But the Continental pay-rolls give the names of a number of men in Captain Edmund Munro's Company in the 15th or Bigelow's Regiment, and these pay-rolls extend from March 10/77 to March 31/79. The following names appear as of his Company:

Jona. Porter, Woburn  
Edward Hayward, Sergeant,  
Ebenezer Hadley  
James Fowle  
Thomas Hadley, Corporal,  
Levi Mead  
Nehemiah Estabrook  
David Fisk, Fifer  
Wm. Boardman of Lancaster  
Pomp Blackman  
Jas. Barrett  
Peter Bower

Sam Crafts  
Job Dodge  
Luke Fletcher  
Jupiter Tree  
David Fiske, private  
Ebenezer Locke  
Thaddeus Munroe

Peter Oliver  
Amos Russell  
Job Spaulding  
Prince Sutton, Charlestown  
Wm. Wheeler  
Jeremiah Tyler of Woburn  
David Parker  
Arnold Glidden  
John Shofe  
Charles Phipps  
Richard Anthony of Concord  
Isaac Barbadoes of Shrewsbury

Ap. 10/77 to Dec. 1/77

Titus Haywood  
Sam'l Darby  
George Munro  
Thos. B. Ball  
Richard Wesson of Lincoln  
Thomas Grant of Princeton  
Amos Dole, Shirley





Captain Bowman seems to have succeeded Edmund Munro in the command of this company, and the pay-rolls from Dec. 3/79 to Dec. 31/83 show the following names:

Edward Hayward, Serg., Concord.  
Ebenezer Hadley, Serg., Lexington  
Levi Mead, Serg., Lexington,  
David Parker, Serg., Westford,  
James Gamewell, Serg., Marlboro,  
John McCullar, Serg., Waltham  
Daniel Bruce, Corp., Waltham,  
Ebenezer Locke, Corp., Woburn,  
Jas. Parker, Drummer, Marlboro,  
David Fiske, Fifer, Lex.,  
James Christian  
Benj. Garfield, Waltham,  
Calvin Kemp, Groton,  
Patrick Nowell, Pennsylvania,  
John Lane, Worcester,  
Wm. Toplin, Salem,  
Charles Rolf, Sandwich,  
Thos. Ridgway, Marlboro  
Solomon Tucker  
David Sole, Drum.  
Pomp Blackman, Lex.  
Peter Bowes, Lincoln

Jas. Barrett, Concord  
Amos Dole, Shirley  
Jupiter Tree, Lex.  
Luke Fletcher, Lincoln  
Thaddeus Munro, Lex.  
Peter Oliver, Littleton  
John Schoof, Fitchburg,  
Arnold Gladden, Groton  
David Fisk, Acton  
Jeremiah Taylor, Woburn  
Charles Phipps, Littleton  
Job Spaulding, Marlboro  
Amos Russell, Lex.  
Wm. Wheeler, Concord  
Samuel Crafts, Lex.  
Job Dodge, Littleton  
Prince Sutton, Woburn



## - N O T E S -

I think these were scattered pages which some of the relatives of Edmund Munroe had.

## 1767 - Mr. Munroe

B'G't of Thomas & Libby,	
½ doz. Pewter dishes, 5½ lbs. at 3s.	16.6
2 small basons 2/8	5.4
	<hr/> £ 1.1.10

Rec'd Montreal, Aug. 1, 1767,  
the contents.

Thomas & Libby	
2 set of knives and forks	5.2
	<hr/> 1.7.0

1768 - Mem. of Commissions to buy oxen and sheep and various articles for Lt. Connor and McIntosh and Mr. Lewis, and ginger and carrying seed for the baker and a number of pair of shoes.

The payments are in N. Y. currency and it would seem as if he traded between Lexington and Crown Point at that time and brought back furs.

1768 - Mch. 12. Memoranda - the expense by the way to Crown Point by way of Charlestown, N. H. and through the woods.

That was by Gen. Stark's path cut through the woods in 1759.

May 16, he returns.

During April and early part of May he buys deer skins, cat, coon, mink, beaver, otter of the Scotch and Englishmen, probably at Crown Point.

May 1 - Mr. Harrington, steers

May 27- Mr. Robbins, lams

26- took George calf

27- " Stephen "

This was from his memoranda. I think I got them in Newton of some relative. I believe they had a pewter plate he brought back.

## Mem. of May 1768.

to buy yoke of oxen for Lt. Connor and 20 sheep

" " 4 oxen, 1 cow, 20 sheep for Lachlan McIntosh

" " 1 yoke for David McIntosh, one ox, 1 cow for Mr. Campbell, one yoke oxen for Mr. Porter Fargy

to buy for the baker 2 lb. ginger, 2 lb. caraway seed

" " Mr. Lilburn & his wife, 2 pairs shoes and one for Mr. Woodward.

" " one right of land in Bridport for Mr. John Watson, to bring one pair pumps for Mrs. Bleacher, two pair for Mrs. Campbell. Six flannels 2 lbs. tea, one pair shoes for Mrs. Lewis and fur for childrens' shoes. One pair Black plain Russett shoes, one quarter pound Indigo, 10 shillings worth Red crimson English worsted, one black Bejaloney Handkerchief and a Pigeon net. 9 yds. of topsail duck. One Quile of large cod line, to speak with Mr. Colburn concerning his mare. To bring one pair shoes for Mr. Blanchard, one pair for his wife. One pound powder and one almanach.





June 1768. Mr. Raymond Cr. N.Y. Currency  
 For the men through the Woods 1 - 1 1/2  
 To Sperrits 1 - 6  
 Aug. 1. Mr. Stimson 1 - 1 - 4  
 Pd. Burdoo 18/  
 Pd. Egge Merriam 18/  
 Mr. Raymond, Dr.  
 Oct. for men's shoes  
 ox  
 razor  
 (I suppose Stimson was at Charlestown, N.H.)

In 1768, June 3, he starts again for Crown Point via No. 4 and "Through the woods.."

In July buys musquash, deer, beaver skins. Returns latter part of July.

Mem. Get beaver for 2 hats for Mr. Harrington  
 2 for Mr. Hadley  
 to two for Mr. Reed  
 to one for Mr. D. Harrington  
 to one for Mr. Tidd  
 to two sable skins for Mrs. Harrington, to deliver a letter for Mrs. Smith, to go to Stone Arabia for Mr. Bill,  
 to get beaver for seven hats for my brother  
 " " " " one hat for Mr. John Bridge  
 " " " " two " " Mr. Parkhurst  
 to ask Capt. Lansing for some cabbage seed such as he gave Mr. Burbee at Westfield.

Rec'd of Edmund Munroe one note of hand payable to said Munroe from Sarah Douglas of nine pounds 10 shillings and six pence, of one from Hanson Middlebin of seven pounds which money I am to collect for him or return the note. 12 Nov. 1768. Dan. C. Moore  
 The notes were returned.

1768 July, Robert Lewis, Dr., Lawful Money  
 One pair girl's shoes  
 " " women's shoes  
 Sept. 2. 2 pr. women's shoes.

1768. Sept. John Cobham, Dr., Lawful Money  
 Money due for oxen, 5-0-0  
 Cash paid between horse and oxen 1-4  
 For m. trouble & expense in taking 2 horses and exchanging them for cattle in N. England. 2-8-0  
 5-12-0

1768. Mr. Sam. Middleburgh, Dr., N. Y. Currency  
 July Sundrys 9-6  
 Shoes  
 one pr. women's shoes

Mr. Laughlin McIntosh, Dr., N.Y. Currency  
 July 5 11 sheep at 15/  
 5 lambs  
 4 oxen 41-0-0  
 Sept. 10 paid 15-





John Smith. N.Y.Currency,	Dr.
July 7. Ox	8-0-0
Yoke oxen	16-0-0

Mr. Hogmer's cow	22-10-0
Sold for	36-11-3



June 14. 1768.

To one sheep killed by the cattle  
Left one sheep and lamb with Mr. Whitney  
Left an ox with Mr. Wheelock and a sheep and lamb with Deacon Day.

Mem. for Mr. Buckman.

Get pay of Mr. March.

Philip Stone to send him some Gingham Pride, Ash bark, snake root  
sweet sirley, and to read his letters.

Get a pair of shoes for Exeter. They are to be 12 inches long. A  
pair for Kelog. Two pair for Mr. Lilburn.

1768. Mr. Wm. Munroe to Edm. Munroe

2 lb. half Beaver 0-15-0

Power of Attorney, Nov. 12, 1768.

Edmund Munro, Farmer of Bridport, in the province of New York, and  
county of Albany, appoints Paul Moore, Farmer of Bridport, his attor-  
ney to sue for or collect and receive all sums due him, all sums of  
money, debts, goods, wares, etc.

Amount of money due the Company.

Due from McIntosh L15-19-9

" Mr. Bradshaw, to be paid in	
making hatts	5-10-0
Mr. Blanchard	6-
Mr. Douglass	9- 2-6
Mr. Middleburgh	7- 0-0
Moore	8- 0-0
Hall	
Fox	
Mr. Smith	
Mr. Winchester	
Capt. Doolittle	
Mr. Marsh	
Stevens	
Mr. Munro	
Lilburne	
Mr. ----	

85- 5-3

8

Majors Nutting and Baker

93- 5-3

48-

141- 5-3

Merriam's old tenor

4- 4-6

Smith

5-12-6

and a note on it says

We are thinking as you have got your farm in so good  
order that would do well to marry.





1769. Feb. 7. John Buckman, Dr.  
1-2 Kentle Fish 0-9-4

1769. Mr. Jonas Harrington, Dr.  
Jan. 50 lbs. Diar's leather at 4/ 10-2-0  
Feb. one hat 1-6-8

Journey from Concord to Bridport  
(Bridport is in Vt. on shore of L. Champlain - South end.)

1769. Mr. Wm. Munroe, Dr.  
Jan. 7. Beaver at 6/  
Feb. 7. One hat

1769. Mr. Duncan Thompson, R. A. (Royal Artillery?)  
One Farrar cow

Mr. Campbell one cow  
one lb. pepper  
one lb. tea

1768. Martin Herrick, Dr.  
Jan. for Moose skin

1768. April 3. Capt. Doolittle, lawful money,  
one pair shoes

1768. Paid Col. Prescott  
Mr. Whittemore, 23- 3-6  
Parkhurst 27-  
Wheeler 3- 7-6  
Capt. Hastings 4-15-0  
Maj. Willard 50-  
Doctor Taylor 55-  
Mr. Toothaker 61-10-0  
" Stone 28-  
" Bradshaw  
(That would be Abraham Bradshaw who made hats.)

1769. Mr. Lewis, 6 pairs shoes at 7/6

1768. Mr. Edward Raymond, Cr.  
May 1. Money due in exchange of watches 1-14-0  
Cash paid Mr. Davis for port

June 2. One pr. women's shoes  
One silk handkerchief  
One Qt. Indigo  
Washers  
One pr. Shoes for Exeter  
One mask  
One pr. washers -- gloves

To my driving cow and 58 sheep from Middleburgh to Crown Point  
to expense, 1-1-6

7 yds. Topsail duck

1769. One pair shoes for Exeter  
Oct. One ox





Aug. 19, 1769.

Edmund Munro gives a Power of Attorney to Wm. Gray of Boston, Physician, but lately sailed for London, to demand and by all lawful means recover and receive of Major Robert Rogers, lately a commander at Michilimacinack, now gone to London, wages, eighteen pounds, seventeen shillings, sixpence, in New York currency, due me.

Edmund Munro.

1770. October.

Potash Dv.

Mr. Joseph Russell	one bushel
Mr. Joseph Tidd	6 do
Mr. Francis Brown	23 "
Mr. Amos Tidd	23 "

1774. Mr. Jonathan Harrington, Dr.

To pasturing 3 cattle at /6 per head per week	0-18-0
1 do. 8 weeks	4-0

1775. For the pasture on Wm. Steeve

10-0

To pasturing 2 calves 6 weeks

4-0

1774. Josiah Reed, Dr.

To mending Amos' shoes

5-0

1775. June 7. To mending your shoes

6-

Mending Amos' shoes

3-0

Nov. 6. Mending Amos' shoes

7-6

Making Isaac shoes

18-0

Making your wife's shoes

16-0

Dec. Making one pair shoes for Amos

18-0

1774. Mr. Jona. Harrington, Dr.

Pasturing 2 calves 15 weeks,

3-15-0

1774. Josiah Reed, Dr.

Sept. & Oct. Making and mending a number of pair of shoes

1774. Thomas Robbins, Dr.

Pasturing 4 heifer

Nathan Farmer, Dr.

Pasturing 1 heifer 12 weeks

My horse 3 times to Charlestown 3-9

(These Reeds I think lived on Lowell St. below him)



1771. For value received Boston, March 3, 1771.  
I promise to pay Robert Gould or order ten pounds, lawful money, on demand in well Dryd Potash Salts at the market price.  
Edmund Munro.

1774 & 1775.

3 pages of entries against Lexington people for making shoes.  
Mr. Harrington's steers I took May 17, 1775.

1775. J. Crosby to Edmund Munro, Dr.  
Nov. To 11 Bbls. Cider 185.  
Dec. 1½ cords wood 185.

1776. Jan. To 1 cord wood 125.  
My horse to Cambridge 0-1-6  
To my chair to Billerica 0-2-6  
" " " sundry times

1773. The rules of the Lexington Minute Men given.

1775. Nov. Mr. Benj. Harrington, Dr.,  
To one load wood 0-6-8  
Dec. " " " walnut 0-11-6

1775. Benoni Winship, Dr.,  
June. Cash 0-8-0

1775. Eliphalet Newell, Dr. to E. Munro  
Dec. One load walnut 0-11-0

1775. Nov. Lt. McKinstry & Mess to Edm. Munro, Dr.  
To Sundrys Sauce 0-7-0

93 lbs. Beaver to Dr. Taylor

(McKinstry I fancy was of Stark's N. H. Soldiers. He was thrown in with New Hampshire men while with Rogers and later in the French & Indian War.)

1774. Sept. 30. Edmund Munroe was one of a committee to propose instructions for Representative Deacon Stone, viz; to use your influence at the Great & General Court that nothing be there transacted as a court under the new council or in conformity with any of the late Acts of Parl.

Copy of deed unsigned by which Edmund Munro of Lexington, gentleman, in consideration of £10. paid by Elijah King of Charlestown, N H. conveys to him all the whole right or share of land lying in the Township of Pelham in N. H. which was granted to me by virtue of my name's being entered on the Charter of said Town as one of the original grantees.





Written before 1900.

References to the past century are to the 18th century.

On the 10th day of Nov. 1693 Edward Pelham of Newport, Joseph Estabrooke of Hingham and Benjamin Muzzy and John Poulter of Cambridge Farms met together at Charlestown at the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Samuel Phipps. Mr. Pelham had probably come up from Newport and spent the night with his sister Penelope the widow of Governor Bellingham in Boston and the other three rode down from their farms on their horses. Mr. Phipps made three deeds for Mr. Pelham by which he conveyed to Muzzy 206 acres. to Poulter 212 acres and to Estabrooke 200 acres at that portion of Cambridge known as Mr. Pelham's farm, the land conveyed by these three deeds forming the whole farm and each deed was witnessed by Phipps and by the other 2 grantors, and was signed by Edward Pelham and his wife Freelope Pelham.

When the inhabitants of Cambridge complained of having too little land, they were granted a tract reaching out into the country 8 miles from their meeting house at what is now Harvard Square. This 8 mile line ran from Rhodes farm by Hastings Park, striking the Robinson place midway between the driveway, then back of Mr. Gilmore's house and through the swamp a little to the rear of the old cemetery, following the ditch and brook and crosses Bedford St. by Mr. Blake's little house on the south side, and crosses Hancock St. by Batchelder's and then ran over the hill to Adams St. and followed Adams St. pretty closely past Mr. Moody's to the Woburn line.





This 8 mile line was the western boundary of Pelham's farm and of the 206 acres sold to Muzzy. On the North Muzzy's land was bounded by John Tidd's land, which he bought (of Steadman. It had of course been common land) the Common lands of Cambridge; and this boundary is marked I believe, by a stone-wall a little back of Hayes' barn on Granny's Hill. Tidd subsequently sold a portion of his land to John Harrington through whom it descended to Henry Harrington and Henry lived in the old yellow house on East St. afterwards owned and occupied by Dr. Jn. Fiske. Henry and his wife then moved over to a house, which stood where the farm house stands at the foot of Granny Hill; and his widow lived there to an old age, and died in 1820. The hill was called after her. South of Muzzy's land was first John Munroe's land and he owned a tract which ran from Spaulding's store up to Parker St. on the road and included Belfry Hill and some land back of it. He also owned where Mr. Gilmore lives and down that side of the road to where the church stands and back to the 8 mile line. A John Cooper owned some land south of Muzzy. I don't know where this was, but supposed it abutted John Munroe's land on the East of it. The next land that touched Muzzy's land on the South was the Ministerial land of which there were 143 acres covering the ball-ground and land South of Forest St. and reaching up across the causeway on to the hill. The Muzzy land further ran along Matthew Bridge's land 25 rods, and then it ran N.E. crossing Vine Brook at the Highway and continuing till it came to Granny Hill.

Poulter's 212 acres lay to the S. E. of Muzzy's land and was bounded on the N. E. by the highway and included it and reached down to the Sanderson or Downing house now occupied by Mr. Jefferson. The Munroe Tavern is on land that belonged to Poulter. His land was bounded



on the South by Bridge's farm. On the S. E. it was bounded by Cambridge Town common and 14 acres of land that Pelham conveyed to Estabrooke lying 87 rods on the South.

To Estabrooke he gave 200 acres East of Muzzy and North of the highway from Cambridge to Concord. On the N. E. it was bounded by Captain Cooke's farm so-called but then belonging to John Rolph and Richard Gardner. Pelham also gave him to make up the 200 acres 14 acres lying on the south of the road beyond Poulter's land, the line running in 87 rods from the road. This land must have reached down the road something like 120 yards beyond the Sanderson house. Pretty near down to the Tower driveway and on the other side of the road it went down to near Munroe Station and it extended into the fields to the North beyond Munroe Spring and included what was called Estabrooke hill. The S. E. bound of the Pelham land would be near Tower's driveway.

Captain Cooke seems to be little known in Lexington and yet he was a man of importance, and owned a large tract of land here. A large part of the Munroe land in that part of the town called Scotland was originally of Capt. Cooke's farm. He was 25 years old when he came to this country in 1635 in the same ship with the Rev. Thos. Shepard. In 1637 he built a grist mill where Fowle's Mills in Arlington now are. The old dam can still be seen half way down the pond, when the water is low. It cost several hundred pounds and building it was a great undertaking for those days. Roads from Woburn and Watertown were laid out to reach it. Capt. Cooke became Captain of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery in 1643 and was the first Captain of the Middlesex County Militia in 1645. He held important offices here but returned to England in the fall of 1645, became a Colonel under Cromwell and was reported "to be slain in the wars





in Ireland in 1652." He had a grant of 600 acres from the town of Cambridge in 1640. His daughter Mary married Samuel Annersley of Westminster, England in 1669.

In 1669 Mary Cooke, Spinster, of Martin in the Fields, London, gave a Power of Attorney to Edw. Collins of Medford to dispose of such lands as were her father's, Col. George Cooke in New England and now belonging to her and under that Power he conveyed to John Rolfe of Nantucket Island, Planter, for £160 - 600 acres in Cambridge bounded north by the Woburn line, South by Herbert Pelham Esq., East by land of the Widow Russell and West by Cambridge Common and some other lands.

John Rolfe died at Newbury Oct. 1/1681, and Mary Rolfe his administratrix conveyed to Richard Gardner 1/5 of a farm of 600 acres at Vine Brook in Cambridge in Cooke's farm, Said Gardner being a joint purchaser with her husband John Rolfe "of a farm of 600 acres formerly Capt. Geo. Cooke's given him by the Town of Cambridge at a place commonly called Vine Brook." but said Gardner had never had a deed of his portion. John Gardner lived in Woburn.

John Rolfe left his farm to his sons, Samuel, Joseph, Benjamin, and Moses, to be equally divided, they to pay legacies out of the estate to their sisters.

John Rolfe's sons moved to Woodbridge, N. J. in 1685 and there are many Rolphs in Long Island descended from them. This land of Captain Cooke was bounded on the North by the Woburn line. The Lockes owned land up around Dog Lane. Their land was on the West of Cooke's, as was also the Tidd or Harrington land. Cooke's land stretched from the Woburn line to the Munroe Meadows. The Russell's land on Woburn St. was to the East of it. The original grantee of the Russell's land was Richard Jack-

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son and they acquired it of him at an early date.

There is a deed of 1702 Dec. 14 by which Jas. Connett husbandman of the East Jersies in consideration of £ 20 conveys to Wm. Munroe Senior, John Comee, Wm. Munroe Jr., George Munroe and Daniel Munroe all of Cambridge 100 acres of upland and meadow in Cambridge being a part of the farm called Captain Cooke's farm bounded east on Moses Rolph's, Southerly on Russell's land, S. W. by Edward Pelhams farm, N. W. by Vine Brook, and he covenants that he is the sole and lawful owner. The witnesses were John Mason and John Hancock.

John Comee had married Martha Munroe, the eldest daughter of Wm. and lived at what is now called the Munroe Tavern. This land might be situated West of Woburn St. or Roe's Road, North of where the hollow comes in the road and West of Lowell Road or as they termed it the way to Captain Cooke's farm.

There is another deed of Aug. 9, 1681 by which Thomas Weld, Atty. for Jos. Saunders of Dublin, Ireland, for £21 sells to Wm. Munroe of Cambridge 36 acres of land. Capt. Cooke's farm on the North and West, Richard Jackson on the S. W. and East and South bounded by common land. The Richard Jackson land was afterwards the Russell land and this tract seems to be about where George Munroe lives.

Wm. Munroe's land was East of Cooke's farm. He was then in 1657 on land granted him by Cambridge. He was a persistent buyer of small lots when Cambridge was selling little pieces.

To the East of Capt. Cooke and South of Munroe was the Russell's land. They owned a large tract east of Woburn St. which they acquired of the original grantee, Richard Jackson, at an early date.

Edward Winship was an original grantee and his land reached up along the Great Meadows. then called the Alewife Meadows, as far as Maple St. He lived in the town of Cambridge, but his son Ephraim lived on a lane leading off from (Lowell St.), the way to Capt. Cooke's Farm, into



the meadows; you can still see lilac bushes and traces of the well. The house was torn down and the material was used in building a house where Chas. Harrington lived (Charles Harrington tore it down) and now occupied by Mr. Spaulding in the East Village opposite the Village Hall.

Edward Winship's other son Edward, owned the old mill where the brook leaves the meadows; and ran it over 2 centuries ago. He probably lived in the old house that stood back of the Lexington Inn on the North side of the Railroad. It was said to be the oldest house in town and was burned a few years ago. (some time in the 1880ties) His land extended across the highway and up the hill on the other side of it.

In 1642 Edward Goffe received a grant of land from the town of Cambridge "By Vine Brook 600 acres of land more or less, Herbert Pelham's and John Bridge's land on the North. We have then the Northern boundary of Goffe's land. He lived in Cambridge and was probably a relative of the Regicide Goffe who lived in Cambridge some months in 1660 after he fled from England.

Mr. Nathaniel Bowman and James Cutler bought 200 acres of Edw. Goffe in 1649 and Cutler in 1651 sold his share to Bowman and moved to Wood St. This land was in the S. E. part of Lexington next to Arlington in the vicinity of Pleasant St., Watertown St. and the Back Road to Arlington Heights. As we have the North and South ends of Goffe's land, we can guess that it consisted of a strip running from a little North of Middle St. to Pleasant St. where Watertown St. begins; and extending down the Back Road to the Heights.

John Bridge came over with Hooker's Congregation to Cambridge. He was a friend of the Rev. Thomas Shepard, and when Hooker and his congregation thought of leaving Cambridge, he was largely instrumental in





inducing Mr. Shepard and his congregation to settle in Cambridge and he was one of the earliest and largest grantees of land at the Farms. He owned several hundred acres and as early as 1643 was granted land at Vine Brook near his earlier and improved lands. I do not know the boundaries of his land. But the fact that his grandson Matthew Bridge in the first half of the last century built 4 houses for his 4 sons will give us an indication of where and what that farm must have been. The four houses are the house at the Estabrooke & Blodgett farm, the one at Grasslands, the house at Valley Field and the Patty Bridge house on a lane opposite Forest St. in Waltham, and now owned by a Mr. Broderick. I do not know which son lived in each house but as his son Matthew moved to Waltham and died there I presume he lived in the Patty Bridge house, so called. Patty Bridge and her sister (Frizpi) lived there early this century.

(The last century is the 18th.)

Another of the original grants was the Stone farm. Some 600 acres were given to Deacon Gregory Stone; and his sons David and Samuel settled on it about 1650. It reached from the Hastings or Cary place along Lincoln St. or Stone's Road as it was then called over into that part of Lexington which is now Lincoln. David lived over in Lincoln at what is now the Stackpole place; and Samuel lived at the place opposite the end of Weston and Shade St. occupied by Mr. Gallagher. Weston St. was laid out in 1714 to accommodate some of the Stones and Merriams who had married into the family; and also to accommodate John Cutler who lived at the foot of Mt. Tabor. His cellar can be seen there now. A Chandler married into the Stone family in 1754 and built the house on what was known as the Jewett place, at present owned by Jos. Evans. All of this Stone family seem to have left that region now.





But as late as 1870 Mr. Bradford Smith and Mr. Bryant bought a piece of land over that way of the heirs of Gregory Stone, that had never been of record, but had passed by descent in the family for over two centuries.

Golden Moore was another early grantee of land in Lexington about 1640 from the town of Cambridge. In 1664 John Adams' farm is mentioned in the Proprietors' Records as a farm of 117 acres by him purchased of Golden Moore and situated in the waste lands in the 7th mile, and bounded N. E. by the farm the Widow Russell purchased of Richard Jackson (I have already spoken of this farm) on the west by Common lands, on the East by Alewife Meadow -- from this we see that alewives used to come up into the "Great Meadows" and that they were originally called Alewife Meadows. South by Jos. Holmes, and N. W. by Mr. Pelhams' farm, with allowance for the great road or highway, that leads to Concord, conveyed by David Fiske at the appointment of Lt. Edw. Winship, by order of the town and allowance for the highway that leads to Matthew Bridge's farm. This highway leading to Bridge's farm is Middle St. but it was very crooked then. This John Adams lived in Arlington near where the Railway Station is. His wife was Ann Adams and he died in 1706 aged 85. He was impressed as a trooper in King Philip's war. This land stretched out along the highway S. Easterly from Pelham's land and beginning by Munroe's Station reached down into the East Village probably as far as Independence Avenue.

In 1703 John & Ann Adams convey to Edw. Emerson of Chelmsford 120 acres of land bounded S. W. by Francis Bowman and Common lands and Mr. Cooke's land, S. E. by Nicholas Hossingden (Fessenden). N. E. by John Dunster and John Russell and Sam Cooke and N. W. by John Mason.

On Nov. 5/1703 Edw. Emerson of Chelmsford conveys to John Mason, Tanner, 20 acres at the farms bounded by John Mason in the N.W. Francis Bowman S. W. & S. E. and John Russell N. E. This I suppose



was Mason's Hollow just below Munroe's Station and also part of the Tower land. Robert Harrington came here from Watertown about 1710 and bought a large part of Mat Mead of this farm and built a house on the south side of the highway below Middle St. at the place where Peletiah Pierce lived; and his son Robert lived there, and had a blacksmith's shop at the easterly corner of Middle St. The place which at a later period was occupied by Mr. Bryant's shop. Another son, Jonathan bought the house at the lower corner of Maple St. now occupied by Walter Wellington, of Thomas Cutler, 1749. He was a farmer and there is a tradition that while returning from a trip to Salem, he pulled up a little elm shoot to whip his oxen and seeing that the roots were attached planted it and it grew into the immense elm in front of the house. Rebecca Munroe told Mrs. Gleason her father planted it when she was three years old. That would make the planting in 1754. The first Robert Harrington was a cousin of the John Harrington whom I have spoken of as living over on East St.

The Jonathan Harrington house was originally plastered on the outside and was painted yellow, a leanto.

Later on in the century Deacon Benj. Brown built a house West of where Mr. Wheaton now lives opposite Middle St. It was a red house and had a door the top and bottom of which were in two parts and you could open the top or bottom of the door. The house has been moved to Woburn St., the second house from the Crossing on the North side of the street. Dea. Brown owned from Maple St. up to Mason's Hollow I think. The Browns first settled early in the last century on a tract of land to the S. E. of Jas. Munroe's meadows. Near by, where the brook passes the stone-wall can be seen traces of two cellars. Deacon James Brown the father of Francis Brown lived there in the middle of the last century (the 18th). This region was known by the name of "God's Creation".





The exit from it was by a lane, still in existence, a portion of which has become the southern end of Maple St.

Another Dea. Jas. Brown had a small leanto house in the latter part of the century, where Mr. Wheaton's house stands. He was the father of Leonard Brown the stage-driver and had a shop where the watering-trough stands, in which he made house nails.

The beginning of Maple St. and the lane beyond Kennison's Hill was the original way in to Russell's farm. I think the land was given by the Town of Cambridge.

See

Note 1.

As to the land on which the Munroe Tavern is situated, on July 13/1697 it was conveyed by Ebenezer Nutting to Isaac Johnson. I found no conveyance to Nutting, but he undoubtedly got it from Poulter. The description of Poulter's land shows that this was the S. E. corner of it. Nutting was first taxed here in 1693. He conveys 50 acres with a small dwelling house and shop at Cambridge at Pelham's farms. part upland, part meadow. The deed was made "in the ninth year of our Sovereign Lord, William, King over England, Scotland, France and Ireland. Defender of the Faith." It was witnessed by Jonathan Poulter, John Mansfield and John Johnson.

See

Note 2

Two years (1699) later Johnson conveys it to John Comee, 50 acres of land, a small dwelling house at Pelham's farm, bounded S. E. by John Mason's land, S. W. by Matthew Bridge, N. W. by John Poulter and N. E. by the Highway.

#### Notes:

1. If Nutting was taxed 1693 he may have bought of Poulter in 1693. Pelham deeds my note book 2-10 p Estabrooke Midd. Deeds 10-234)  
     " to Muzzy " " 2-20 " Midd. D. 10.231 )  
     Poulter " " 2-23 Midd. D. 10-317. Nov. 10/1693 )
2. John Comee was the son of David Machomee who was brought here on the John & Sarah 1651, a Scotchman taken prisoner at battle of Dunbar. Wm. Munroe was probably on same boat. John was first over Woburn way, I fancy near Munroe. The place where Munroe lived was called Scotland. David became David Comee drifted to Concord, a part of Concord took the name of Scotland. David was killed in the fight at Sudbury and his widow 2nd wife











John Comee's wife was Martha Munroe, the eldest daughter of the old patriarch William, who lived over near Woburn with his three wives, in succession of course, and 14 children, on what was called "Roe's" road and which afterwards was named Woburn St. Comee had several children. One of them, John, was killed in some fight with the Indians in 1707. There had been Indian raids around Haverhill and Chelmsford that year; and companies of militia had been sent out against the savages.

See  
Note 3.

Feb. 3, 1719, John and Martha Comee convey 30 acres of this land to their son David Comee. Bounded S. E. by land of John Comee, S. W. by Matthew Bridge, N. W. by the Widow Pouiter and Jos. Loring (John Poulter had conveyed before his death some 90 acres to Jos. Loring of Hingham in 1706). N. E. by Whittemore and the Concord Road -- And the South end of the Mansion house being all the old end with the cellar, with the privilege of

Notes cont.

petitioned court to appoint guardian for her children. She had 6, four of these children of former wife, all young. Asks they be put in some good trade. As John Comee, son of David, married Wm. Munroe's daughter Martha it looks as if William took charge of him.

-  3. Munroe Tavern.  
Original house under John Comee See Green book of deeds II p. 12
-  House in 1719 under John Comee and David Comee.
-   store Under John Buckman
-  After Wm. Munroe got it.  
Shop moved up by Munroe.
-  Tavern as Wm. Munroe attend it over toward end of the century.

And the John Comee to David Comee deed was acknowledged before Mr. Hancock's friend Jonas Bond J. of Peace. He was a kind of judge I believe who sat in Court at times and was about equal to a Judge of Superior Ct. but did not sit continually. I suppose you will find this information in my note books. I remember it this way. And when John Hancock conveyed to his son Ebenezer he said his tenant Mr. Bond must not be disturbed. The house and premises that Bond occupied was that which had belonged to Richard Muzzy. This is a guess.



a wood yard and water from the well, and also land to build an addition to his father's barn. You see by this time they had built a larger house on to the old end and north of it. John and Martha Comee signed this deed by making their marks in the presence of Jos. Loring and Rev. John Hancock, before Jonas Bond, Justice of the Peace. It was not at all uncommon at this time or later on for well to do and even wealthy people to sign in this manner. Before the parish became a separate town the opportunities for schooling were very small. John Comee died about 1723.

See  
Note 4.

In 1738 David Comee, Yeoman, conveys the Buildings and 26 acres of land to John Overing (There is another article which gives information about Overing). In 1748 John Overing of Boston sells the Mansion House and 20 acres of land to John Buckman.

See  
Note 5.

John Buckman d. in 1763. His son John on July 21, 1768, married Ruth Stone, the daughter of Sam. Stone, who at that time owned what is called now the Buckman Tavern. John and his wife lived in what we know as the Munroe Tavern. He was a cabinet maker and made desks, coffins, barrels and had a potash house and made potash in partnership with Edmund Munroe, afterwards known as Capt. Edmund Munroe who was killed at the battle of Monmouth.

John also kept boarders, at least Edmund Munroe, who boarded at Landlord Raymond's after he came back from the French war, went to board with John Buckman July 26/68 and they ran the potash works together unsuccessfully.

Notes: 4. I got the impression Overing was a man who married into a family of influence. He was a lawyer and came over here to get some of the Government positions and was made Atty. General. There is elsewhere information about him. His estate was insolvent at his death.

5. Was the potash works the shop or was the potash works the Bond house?





On the 27th of February 1770 John Buckman Cabinet Maker Conveyed to Wm. Munroe, Cooper for £280 lawful money, one Mansion house, a barn, a wood house with  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a Potash house and works thereto belonging and 26 acres of land. This building has since belonged to Wm. Munroe and his heirs and he kept a tavern there as did also his son Jonas. John Buckman, father and son were approbated year after year, as retailers of spirits and this indicates that they kept a shop there.

I think Wm. the son of Jonas Munroe told me his grandfather occupied the place before the date of the deed, and that he kept a shop separate from the house. It was afterwards moved up to the house and the barrels of liquor were in it, while the bar-room was in the room at the right of the front door. That when the soldiers got quarrelsome John started to run from the bar-room to the shop and escape, and was shot as he passed through the door.





John Mason of Watertown married in 1699 and in 1714 (Midd. Deeds 17-144) bought of Joseph Estabrooke the 14 acres on the South side of the highway bounded S. E. by land of Francis Bowman, East by John Adams, North-west by Isaac Johnson or John Comee and N. E. by the highway. This was to the East of the Munroe Tavern and includes the land where the Sanderson or Downing house stands. It ran in 87 rods from the road which would give it a frontage of about 500 feet on the road, and this would bring the easterly line of Pelham's land very close to where a post stands in Mr. Tower's wall.

See  
Note 1.

See  
Note 2

Mason also bought of Estabrooke at the same time a piece of land and meadow on the other or north side of the highway, containing 6 acres, bounded East by John Mason's land formerly belonging to John Adams and John Russell's land, N. E. by Capt. Cooke's or "Roe's" land, West by land and meadow of Estabrooke and South on the highway as it is now found "with ditches and Railds." On this second piece he built his house, which is

#### Notes:

1. The deed of Estabrooke to Mason of the upper 20 acres of his farm is of date 1714, but the deed of Emerson to Mason of the lower 20 acres (Mason's Hollow) is of 1703, and by it's bounds as given Mason is already on the Estabrooke piece. So that I fancy Mason owned the Estabrooke's 20 acres at an earlier time than that given in the Estabrooke deed, and prior to 1703. Deeds of the land on the other side of the road in 1697 refer to the lands as of Estabrooke. Deed of 1699 refers to the lands as of Mason.

2. A post on Tower's land just above the driveway used to attract my attention. It looked like a part of an old fence, and I thought it might be to preserve to remembrance of some old dividing line. It was about the spot where the Pelham and Adams farms met, and was the 7-mile line (makes it run parallel to the 8-mile line which is described in some other of these articles.

Mason's Hollow was on the Adams or Golden Moore farm. Dan Mason who Mr. Bryant pleasantly describes in his old age, was a private in Capt. Brooke's co., Colonel Dixie's regiment, Dec. 1776/Feb. 1777, served guarding stores at Boston. Also Corporal, Capt. Brooke's Company, Col. Brooke's regiment of guards formed Nov. 3, 1777. Served to April 3, 1778, 5 mos. at Cambridge. You will find under articles on the Convention of Burgoyne's troops that he was Corporal of the Guard when one of the British soldiers was pricked by a bayonet and a soldier knocked down, and then Daniel was knocked down and kicked. He testified at Col. Henshaw's court martial.



the first house you meet coming up from Munroe's Station. Mason's N. W. line was about where the ridge of land is to the west of the house and this land reached pretty well S. E. to the station and was Pelham land. Beyond to the S. E. were the 20 acres he bought from the John Adams farm in 1703, (Midd. Deeds 17-145) which included Mason's Hollow and some of Tower's land on the hill. Mason's Hollow is not back of the Munroe Tavern. Some people think it is. Although deed from Estabrooke is dated 1714, the deed of 1703 indicates that Mason already owned the land, for it is reported as a boundary in 1703.

See  
Note 1.

John Mason was a tanner and his tan yard was on the west side of his house. The millstone with which he ground his bark is now used as a step to the golf club-house. He was a selectman and town clerk for several years and also had the title of Ensign.

See  
Note 2.

As to the Sanderson or Downing place. It was the N. W. corner of Mason's 14 acres. In 1747, Feb. 12, John Mason, Tanner, conveyed to Joshua Bond, Tailor, 1 acre and 16 rods of land bounded N. E. by Concord Road, N. W. by John Buckman, S. W. and S. E. on Mason's land. The description shows there was an orchard in the west part of this piece of land and a wall beyond it which was a boundary line and in the N. E. part was a garden. No house is mentioned. In 1764 Joshua Bond conveys the land to John Pigeon of Boston and in 1765 John Pigeon conveys it to Jonathan Harrington, Philip Russell and Benj. Merriam, a messuage and 1 acre and 16 rods of land. In 1775 Samuel Sanderson was living in the house

#### Notes:

1. This about the golf club-house refers to about 1897 or 1900.
2. Kindly remember people did not always record deeds or if they did the Middlesex Deeds does not give the description of the land in the Index. Suffolk and Norfolk deeds give ground description which affords a ready clue.





which now stands on this land. I don't know of whom he got it. But he probably occupied it from 1772 when he married Mary Munroe. I find no conveyance to him. Someone else may. Mary and Sam lived there at the time of the fight and Mary found a wounded British soldier in her bed when she returned from "Scotland" in the evening and gave him "a divilish honing."

In 1783 Sanderson who was a joiner sold it to Samuel Downing who was a wheelwright. A dwelling house, shop and barn and 1½ acres of land.

I think that Joshua Bond the tailor moved to Concord but his son Joshua Bond the saddle and harness maker had a house and shop which were partly burned on the 19th of April. I do not know with certainty where this house was. But at the beginning of this century Anna Bond and her sisters Polly and Sarah, tailoresses, occupied a little low one-story unpainted house on the land on the South side of the road, west of Mr. Dan. G. Tyler's house and east of the driveway leading up to Mr. Sherburne's. Some say that Joshua Bond's house was not completely destroyed and that they rebuilt it. Others say that they built there and had no title whatever to the place. Mr. William Munroe told me he remembered the Bond girls and that he never knew how the Bonds happened to live there. He thought his grandfather allowed them to occupy the house.

Prior to 1750 Ebenezer Bowman had a house on the place where Mr. Norris lives. He also had a barn and a blacksmith shop on the low land between the well back of the Memorial Tablet and where Bloomfield

Note:

1. Old Wm. Munroe, grandson of Col. Wm. remembered the Bond girls, tailoresses in this house. He thought his grandfather let them live there. Fred Simonds told me how at home his mother spun the wool and then took it to a weaver in the North part of the town and then one of the Bond girls came up and cut the cloth and made him a suit.





St. now is. He sold the estate in 1750 to Nat. Mulliken, the clockmaker, who married Lydia Stone in 1751 and Mulliken used the shop as a clock-maker's shop and made his clock works in it. This house and shop were burned April 19/75. His land reached from where Bloomfield St. now is down to the elm tree at the easterly side of Sherburne's driveway.

(Note: E. A. Mulliken planted that tree as a boundary)

The Rev. Jos. Estabrooke who bought the 200 acres of Edw. Pelham lived in a house on the spot where the John Mulliken or Raynor house now stands, at present occupied by Mr. Neal. His father gave him

3/4 of the Estabrooke land and Abigail 1/4. In 1733, Joseph, Jr. died and in March 1734 his son Joseph, a cordwainer and shoemaker sold the mansion house and 25 acres of land reaching from John Mason's tan yard to an apple-tree at the west corner of this house, to Hepzibah Raymond; and to her husband Jonathan Raymond, a weaver, 17 acres reaching probably up to about where Mr. Harmon's house stands. In all 42 acres. The land reached out to the Munroe Spring and brook and across where Woburn St. now is. But that was not noticed in the deeds till after 1760 when it is referred to as Roe's road. The description is interesting as it tells of the "islands" in the meadow and its "springs" or "breaks".

Jonathan also bought of his next neighbor Matthew Mead, the constable, 11 acres beyond the Munroe Spring between that and the Lexington Spring. It was called then and is still called by the older people, the Tony pasture and is said to have received that name because a half-breed Indian named Anthony had a hut on the edge of it about the middle of the last century.

**Note:**

1. In 1697, August 21, Joseph Estabrooke of Concord out of aff. deeded to Abigail, relict. of his son Benj. 50 acres or 1/4 of the land he bought of Pelham, East by Jos. Estabrooke, Jr. who had 3/4. I have no record of a conveyance to his son Joseph, but it is probably in the books and was of or prior to 1697. Joseph may at that time have had a house where the John Mulliken house is. He was married in 1690.

See  
Note 1.



Jonathan and Hepzibah and their son John kept tavern in this house till 1773 when the Widow died, though she was no widow then, having married twice since Jonathan's death.

At her death the estate was insolvent and in 1774 Lydia Mulliken, Nat's widow, bought it but she did not get a clear title at once. Poor John Raymond went to the well and was killed while looking after Wm. Munroe's place on the day of the fight. He was lame. Lydia Mulliken though she owned this house did not move into it when her house and shop opposite were burned but moved into the southern half of the Muzzy house on the East corner of what is now Waltham St., so the Mullikens say.

see  
Note 1.

Lydia died in 1783 and in 1790 her heirs sold this estate to John Mulliken as well as the three acres on the other side of the street and in 1795 John Mulliken built the present house above the cellar and foundation of the Raymond Tavern and used the old timbers in his new house, now occupied by Mr. Neal. He also hauled the immense stone step at the front door from Holliston with 12 yoke of oxen. The stone is said to be in it's natural condition. The land between the house and Mr. Tuft's stonewall was part of Jonathan Raymond's land and was set off to Hepzibah as her widow's thirds.

Both of these Estabrookes were men of authority in the town and held about all the important offices. Both were Captains of the Military Company and the father was the first teacher of the Grammar School.

Although Lydia Mulliken owned the tavern at the time of the fight, it then was occupied by John Raymond and his family to whom she had given neighborly assistance. (Lydia had incomplete title till 1777 (I think it was when a claim against Dan. Raymond one of the heirs was settled.)

Note:

1. Mrs. Gleason says that was a new house in 1815. At any rate Lydia was allowed to occupy a Muzzy house somewhere. Loring Muzzy said his grandfather built that (Holmes) house for his sisters. Lydia did not get complete title to the Raymond tavern till 1777. The debts of Dan Raymond one of the heirs had to be paid.





See  
Note 1.

The land to the West of the Raymond's belonged to John Estabrooke a brother of Joseph, the cordwainer. Matthew Mead married in 1754 and lived on land that must have come from John Estabrooke. Matthew Mead was a farmer and was a tything man and the village constable. He used to collect taxes and when on an official errand would naturally carry a white staff tipped with brass. His house was a two-story leanto <sup>four</sup> and still exists in the front rooms of the old part of the Russell House. On the evening of April 18/75 three British Sergeants entered the lower right hand room and ate up the Mead girl's baked beans and brown bread which she had just taken from the oven.

There was formerly quite a knoll where the High School stands. It was cut down a great deal when that building was erected. On the other side of the highway lived Joseph Loring who became constable and town treasurer and died a deacon. He was a step-son of the original Lexington Joseph Estabrooke who married the Widow Loring in Hingham in 1693. They came probably with Mr. Estabrooke to Lexington and in 1706 he bought 90 acres of land of John Poulter. He married Lydia Fiske the daughter of David Fiske and his house was situated on a shelf of land midway between the Hunt and Griffiths' houses, and lies to the East of the driveway to Mr. Hunt's house. His son Joseph also lived here and his house and barn 70 feet long were burned, also a cow barn. His loss was heavy. He was a deacon and the girls hid the communion service in a heap of brush back of the house. They were tailors.

Note:

1. 1754 he must have lived then, or soon after at this place for he soon conveys land East of the house to Raymond. David Mead (I presume Matthew's father) sold Robert Harrington some 25 acres on the South side of the road (to P. P. Pierce's place just below Middle St.) about 1714 if I remember correctly. It was about that time. You will find the conveyance in the Green Book of Deeds.





Before the middle of the century Benjamin Merriam occupied the house which stood on land in front of Mr. Tenny's residence close to the street and here also lived his son Benjamin Merriam, Jr., and his wife Ginger Porter Merriam. This house was lately removed to the North side of the Crossing. It was called the Viles house because Joel Viles lived there at a later period.

The next house on the North side of the street above Matthew Mead's was the house built for the Rev. Benj. Estabrooke in 1693. It stood a few rods back of Mr. Plumer's house and the beams and material were probably used in the construction of the Plumer house in 1805 by Benj. Greene, as the beams of the Plumer house show that they have been pieced out as if coming from an earlier or smaller house.

Avery Williams told where the B. Estabrooke house stood and that it was used by Benj. Greene in building his new house now the Plumer house.

Amos Muzzy's house was the next above Benjamin Estabrooke's. His house stood by the lane that extends between the Keeley Institute and David Muzzy's house. He had a barn and a corn house. The barn was nearer to the street than the house was, and there was also an orchard along the lane. He married in 1734 and built the house I suppose at that time. His son Amos lived there also. This house was entered by the British and some damage done. The house was moved to Waltham St. and again some two years ago to the new street back of Belfry Hill. I think the old Pelham house was probably at this location.

Note:

1. I think this was the location of the old Pelham house, and that Benj. had something to do with the farm. This was the natural place a farmer would select where he could have water for cattle. We know Amos lived there.

See  
Note 1.



A son of Amos, William Muzzy in 1764 married Lydia Reed of Charlestown and they lived in the white house on the knoll west of the Baptist Church, the second house from the Church. He died Nov. 20/1770 and June 6/71 the widow conveyed the Mansion house, barn and other buildings to Jonathan Smith and married him June 15th. She died in 1785 and Jonathan in 1788 married Abigail Marrett who died, and in 1795 he married Ruth Fiske, daughter of Dr. Joseph Fiske.

Joshua Russell married Smith's daughter Susanna in 1795 and I suppose built the Valentine house then. Jonathan Smith's land extended from the Baptist Church to the West side of the Valentine land probably, and he had apparently tan pits on both sides of the brook and there was small old building near the brook on the west side some 80 feet from the road. It was probably used for storing leather.

(That Richard Muzzy house before him belonged to a Lawrence and he got it of a Fassett. It was on land originally Muzzy land).

Note:

1. A Fassett owned it and conveyed it to Lawrence and he to Wm. Muzzy. See Deeds and I think there is something about it in another article.

Book of Midd. Deeds 22-283, Benj. Fassett, Blacksmith, to John Lawrence, blacksmith, 15 acres and mansion and barn. N. and N. E. on Concord Road, S. E. by road from Joseph Loring's to an oak by the pond to a great stump to the centre of a great rock N. W. of road. South by heirs of John Poulter. From centre of rock to Benj. Muzzy land and west by Benj. Muzzy. Benj. and Elizabeth Fassett 1715. Bk. 22-383 Benj. Muzzy to John Lawrence of Lex., blacksmith,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre West by said Muzzy by the brook, it being all the land said Muzzy was possessed of at the writing hereof at South side of the brook and on South side of country road to Concord. Said brook known as Vine Brook, and North by the road and East by said Lawrence. I think I had a deed from Lawrence to Wm. Muzzy but I can't find it.

See  
Note 1.





The house at the Easterly corner of Waltham St. was also a Muzzy house and Lydia Mulliken lived in the Southern portion of it for a couple of years after her house was burned. So the Mullikens say, but Mrs. Gleason, born in 1805, said it was new about 1849 or so. She remembered it well because it struck the children as strange that the entrance was on the side for Waltham Street was then only a path; and they called it "no front door." E. A. Mulliken said "I have always supposed that was the house." At any rate he let Lydia live in some house belonging to him. When I put this up to Mrs. Gleason, she said, "There may have been an old house there before my day."

Loring Muzzy said the house was built by his grandfather for his sisters. Make your choice. I don't remember that any claims for damage at this place were put in.

Note:

1. Mrs. Gleason lived with her grandmothers, Mrs. Francis Brown and Mrs. Edmund Munroe down where Wheaton lives and passed the house daily.

I think Mr. Muzzy must have let Lydia live in some other Muzzy house. I believe Loring Muzzy said he thought it was built by his grandfather for his sisters. It was his impression.

See  
Note 1.





There was no other house on the South side of the road till you get to the hay scales just east of Spaulding's store. There was a little red house occupied by Wm. Munroe, the blacksmith, the son of Lt. John Munroe, whose land began there and reached up to where Parker St. is. Wm. was born in 1701 and it was a very old house in the early years of this century, so that it probably was built in the early part of the last century. Wm. died in 1777. Some little damage was done there at the time of the fight.

See  
Note 1.

Amos Muzzy's land reached up to this place (Wm. Munroe's land). It had on it a mansion house, barn and other buildings. In 1782 his son Oliver Munroe, Tailor, of Newton, conveyed the land to Joel Viles and also the land between the driveway to the cemetery and the land on which the Unitarian Church stands, reaching back to the 8-mile limit. Mr. J. F. Simonds' mother was brought up in this house and Levi Harrington lived in it a few years.

See  
Note 2.

In 1767 the belfry was moved from John Munroe's land to the place where Wm. Munroe's shop used to stand so that I presume in the first half of the century he had a blacksmith shop near his house, probably about where Spaulding's store is, in fact, I know he did.

Somewhere else I have said that this old house was used in Joshua Mead's store and that it is now in the back part of Spaulding's store.

#### Notes:

1. I don't pretend to say his land did not reach beyond Parker St. Someone might look up the old poor-house on Newell's land, and see to whom it belonged. That might be on Munroe's land but more probably Ministerial land.

2. This century in these articles is the XIXth.

See Green Book of Deeds 2, page 8, Oliver Munroe to Joel Viles. Dan Harrington was N. E. of this land on land he bought of Sam Jones, step-son of Wm. Munroe the blacksmith, who I suppose got it of his step-father. I don't believe there was any deed of it. Of course my examination was casual.



Three of the sons of Lt. John Munroe are referred to over and over again in the town records: Wm., the blacksmith b. 1701, Jonas born 1707 and Marret b. 1713. William's house I have spoken of. In 1770 Anna Munroe of Woburn, Administratrix of the estate of John Munroe, conveys to John Buckman, Innholder, 8 acres and 50 rods of improved land with a dwelling house, a malt house and a barn, except parts of the house set off to the Widow Rebecca Munroe. Bounded N. E. by country road and Wm. Munroe's house, S. E. by land of Amos Muzzy and S. W. by Widow's thirds, N. W. by land of Marret Munroe to the country road. Rebecca was John's step-mother, the widow of Jonas. Early in the century Clark St. did not exist, but a lane called Malt Lane extended down past the house and barn some hundred yards to an old building that was called the malt house, and Mr. James Blodgett and his family lived in the Malt house. It was a queer old building. Two sides of the first story were of stone, the front side was of wood. The second story projected over the lower story some 2 feet and a half and so much of it's beams were in sight. There were no clapboards on it. It was made of bevelled boards.

I heard some years ago from some of the very old men that early in the 19th century there was an old house and barn beyond the malt house. This was probably the house owned by John Buckman but who lived there at time of the fire I don't know, nor about the malt house.

Note:

1. Elsewhere I stated that John Munroe lived down where the new School-house was built and old Fred Simonds could remember the ruins of a house and barn. You will find something about the places under article on John Munroe and one on Jonas Munroe. The old house belonged to the original John Munroe and after him to Jonas. It was not much of a house.

The barn was worth much more. See articles on John and Jonas Munroe.





Major David Johnson early in this century lived in an old house at the corner of Malt lane on the spot where Miss Clara Harrington's house stands and I supposed that the dwelling house conveyed in the deed of Anna Munroe referred to this house. But I now know this is an error and that Major Johnson's house was not built till after 1790. Levi Harrington left a statement that there were only five houses about the Common at the time of the fight, namely, the two Harrington houses on Elm St., the Buckman Tavern, the Marret Munroe house and the Wm. Munroe house. He also states that he had lived in the Johnson house showing that he had not forgotten it. That goes to show that that house did not then exist. Emerson bought the land 1790, the house was built between 1790 and 1795. Since then I have learned that early in this century there were an old house and barn beyond the Malt house. This house then was probably the one referred to in Anna Munroe's deed. Who lived there at the time of the fight I don't know.

The old John Munroe house and Malt house was sold by the Widow Anna Munroe to John Buckman before the Revolution. See article about Jonas Munroe and his son John, who made a row over the belfry.

Note:

1. See Green Book. Johnson got the land 1790 and in 1795 is a deed from him to his son mentioning the house. No house in 1790. A house there 1795.

See  
Note 1





In 1761 it was voted to hang the bell on the hill on the North side of Lt. Jonas Munroe's house. His house was then on the South side of the hill, the house was where the school house is. Jonas died in 1765. John in 1767 wanted the town to pay rent for the belfry or remove it, probably because Sam. Stone, Jr., over the way at what we call the Buckman Tavern, had been chosen to ring it. The town refused and there was a great quarrel and there were votes as to where the belfry should be, and it was placed in one or two places, and there was a town row and finally some people got up in the night and placed it on the Common and it stayed there. In 1784 John Buckman sold this house, barn and Malt house to Jos. Simonds. I have no knowledge as to who lived there at the time of the fight. In Hudson's History there is a map of the houses at the time of the fight is given in which a house called Emerson's house seems to be where Miss Harrington's house stands. But I don't know what his authority is. There was an Emerson built there between 1790 and 1795.

For the John and Jonas Munroe estates there is a separate article giving their houses.

Marret Munroe who married in 1737 lived in Mr. Saville's house, and beyond that there were some sheds for the horses while people were at meeting.

And beyond these sheds was the pound between Mr. Hudson's house and the street. The pound was surrounded by a high stone-wall. It was built on land at the end of Dea. Merriam's stables and next to Mr. Jonas Munroe's stone-wall. (Deacon Merriam's stable I suppose for horses Sundays).



Amos Muzzy's land on the North side of the road reached up to about where the grass plot now is, in front of the station. The next house above Muzzy's was the Buckman Tavern, so called. I have heard that the L was the oldest part of the Buckman Tavern and that the house was enlarged and altered in various ways during the past century. John Muzzy was licensed as a tavern keeper in 1714 and his father Benjamin agreed to provide accommodation for him to keep a tavern, which he did for a number of years. Benjamin died in 1732 and left a homestead of 111 acres of land, a house, barn and cider-mill, and among other things mentioned in his inventory were three slaves, a man, woman and child.

See  
Note 1

John Muzzy's daughter Jane married Sam Stone, Jr., and on Jan. 24/1764 John Muzzy conveyed to Sam Stone, Jr., 42 acres of land in Lexington bounded north by Jonas Clark's land, N. W. by Clark and Ensign Daniel Tidd., N. E. by Dr. Jos. Fiske and Mr. Henry Harrington, S. E. by land of Benj. Estabrooke, East upon Estabrooke, S. and S. E. upon land of Amos Muzzy, S. W. on Concord Road, with mansion house, barn and other edifices,

Note:

1. In 1709 Benj. Muzzy conveyed to his son John (Midd. Deeds 16-323) 6 acres near meeting house, S. E. by Benj. Muzzy, N. E. by John Hancock, N. W. Ben. Muzzy, W. and S. highway, S. E. line beginning at a stump on Concord Road and running to a stake between Hancock and Estabrooke. The N. W. line beginning at town highway and direct to Mr. Hancock's line. In 1714 Benj. conveyed to son Rd. (14-742) 5 a. N. and W. by Hancock, S. by B. Muzzy, East of highway, bounded W. by highway, N. E. Hancock.

Benj. Muzzy conveyed to son Richard 1714, land on East of Hancock Street beyond Buckman Tavern, 7 a. (16-323) and in 1717 Rd. mortgaged it to J. Hancock with a house on it. (18-449) and in 1720 after death of Rd. it was sold to J. Hancock (22-324). I suppose this was the house in which Mr. Hancock let his friend Jonas Bond, Justice of the Peace, live. Nobody had recollection of any such house on the East side of Hancock Street. It had probably gone to pieces by the beginning of the 19th century.





See  
Note 1

and also a tract of land bounded W. on a town road called Smith Road, S. E. by Deacon Loring and Jas. Comee, and N. E. by J. Parkhurst and Amos Muzzy to the Smith Road.

See  
Note 2

John Muzzy d. March 28/1768 and his son-in-law Sam Stone died March 31/1768 3 days later. Sam Stone had a daughter Ruth and a daughter Elizabeth. On July 22/1768 Ruth married John Buckman and went to live in what we call the Munroe Tavern. On March 2nd, 1769 her sister Elizabeth married Joseph Simonds. On Jan. 14, 1771, Joseph and Elizabeth Simonds convey this 42 acres and house as well as the 11 acres before described, to John Buckman, again mentioning the town road called Smith's road. In the deed it states it was the estate Elizabeth had from her father Samuel Stone deceased. John Buckman had already sold the Munroe Tavern to Wm. Munroe the previous year and may have been living there when he bought. John kept a tavern in this house at the time of the battle and a post-office. The house was full of Minute Men the night before the battle and two grenadiers who were wounded in the afternoon of the 19th were carried to the house and one died there and was buried in the grave-yard.

See  
Note 3

Ruth Buckman d. Sept. 8, 1778, aged 33, and Sept. 28, 1784 John married Sarah Weld and on March 8 of the same year reconveyed this land to Joseph Simonds, and he also sold to him the land and houses which he bought on the other side of the Road, of the widow of John Munroe. This 42 acres that went with the tavern reached from Hunt's Block up to the Railroad Crossing on Hancock St. or as it was termed in the deeds, to Road to Clark's. It included Chas. Goodwin's land and Merriam Hill. Joseph Simonds afterwards conveyed this land to Rufus Merriam.

Notes:

1. Smith's Road is Lincoln Road
2. Under an article on Muzzy land it is set out more fully.
3. I say Hunt's Block, perhaps it included it.





The next place on Hancock St. was the Hancock-Clarke house. This land was bought of Benj. Muzzy. The L of the house was built in 1698 (must be) when Mr. Hancock was settled in Lexington, and about 1733 his son<sup>X</sup> Thomas built the main part of the house.

The Rev. John Hancock d. 1752 and April 1st 1760 Thos. Hancock conveyed to Jonas Clarke 50 acres of land in Lexington bounded North by land of Daniel and Joseph Tidd, N. W. by 8-mile line, S. W. by John Muzzy and Thomas Moore and S. E. by land of John Muzzy, together with the mansion house, barn and edifices thereon. Also a piece of meadow lying near the long causey in Lexington containing 3 acres. All formerly the estate of Rev. John Hancock. The 8-mile line crosses Hancock St. by Batchelder's, and the estate reached into the meadow towards where Bedford St. now is. The old Hancock Church or Historic land was sold off from this estate in 1808 and from there it stretched up over the hill and I believe reached to the stone-wall back of Mr. Hayes' stone stable on Granny's Hill.

See  
Note 1

I believe that the three acres referred to were beyond the 8-mile limit and back of the present Unitarian Church, and that the long causeway was a built-up road leading in to the meadows between Dr. Tilton's and Geo. Harrington's. Mr. Harrington or Swan has the deed of these three acres from Nathaniel Hancock to John Hancock of the date of 1693. It was a part of Dan Harrington's property.

Geo. Harrington told me of the long causeway.

The long carsey

Note:

1. The Long Causey ran in near Geo. Harrington's house. He can tell you what it was or is.



Still on Hancock St. beyond Pelham's land and the 8-mile line, and opposite Adams St. and where Mr. Geo. Jones now lives, was the house of Jonas Parker, who was killed in the fight. He bought 18 acres of land of the heirs of Dr. Robt. Fiske a little after the middle of the last century and built a house there which Dea. Witherell tore down some years ago. (I think the Fiske deeds show it or at least point to it, or rather I mean the Fiske probate records. And Fred Simonds said when he was a boy people of the name of Parker lived there. Dr. Fiske laid it down in some deed in his probate that a deed was to be made there from Parker. Robt. Fiske Probate Midd. 7652-1752.)

The next house beyond that is the house now owned and occupied by J. F. Simonds. This was built in 1734 by Dr. Robert Fiske and his father David had lived nearby previously.

The Fiskes owned a large tract of land reaching at one time over to Lowell St. They owned land on East St. and Dr. Joseph Fiske lived at one time in the yellow house opposite Mr. Timothy Fiske's. That place before him belonged to Henry Harrington, who got it from his father John Harrington.

#### Notes:

1. You will find in one of the Fiske's Probates in my Green Book an order that they should convey land to Jonas Parker. I did not see such a deed. In Green Bk. 3, p. 23, Probate Robt. Fiske 1752. Deeds were not always recorded.

I remember a class-mate of mine had a farm which his people had owned 150 years. He thought he would look it up in the Registry and found a mortgage on it dated 1790. He went home and got out the papers and on the back of the old mortgage deed found an acknowledgement that it was paid about 1795 and had it recorded some 80 years later.

See  
Note 1





In regard to the house on Elm. St. West of the Common. Dan Harrington lived in a house that was torn down a few years ago and which stood between the present Swan-Harrington house and Miss Gould's. He was a blacksmith and his shop stood between his house and the house Miss Gould now lives in. He bought the land in 1763 of Sam Jones,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres. Bounded S. E. by Common lands or a highway, S. W. by Wm. Munroe, N. W. by 8-mile limit and N. E. by Jonas Clarke and Abigail Harrington.

In 1784 Dan also bought of John Muzzy 73 acres for £290 lying beyond the 8-mile limit and back of the estates facing on Elm St. It reached up to what we call Hill St., but the deeds refer to it as a County Road, which it was being a part of the highway from Concord to Salem. There is a plan of this land; and Sam Locke lived in this St. just about where Bedford St. crosses it and a Mr. Robinson lived in Revere St. where Mr. Tower lives. (A plan of the Concord-Salem Road is in the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester.)

In attempting to recall the old houses some of the older men of the town spoke of an old unfinished house which stood in the early part of the century between the Dudley Tavern and Marrett Munroe house. In 1793 Marrett Munroe and Deliverance, (X her mark) sold Dan Harrington 16 rods of land between Nathaniel Dudley's and Marrett Munroe's, 4 rods on the highway. In 1796 Dan Harrington sells to Cyrus Baldwin of Woburn, Yeoman, and Ezra Kimball of Woburn, Carpenter, these 16 rods with a new Dwelling house partly finished and all the window frames, latches and

#### Notes:

1. Sam Jones was step-son of Wm. Munroe, the blacksmith, and Sam probably got the land of his step-father who owned land there, East of the old part of the burying ground. The new part of the burying ground was land of Wm. Munroe, the blacksmith. The Wm. Munroe who was the first person buried in it in 1747 was the father of Captain Edmund Munroe. In 1763 Mrs. Abigail Harrington owned the Gould place and she occupied it.

2. It is also in Marrett Munroe's will (Probate 15700-1798. Marrett made his will but had in 1793 sold the land before his death.) that Rachel Munroe and Bethial are jointly to have a piece of land 4 rods square. North  
(See next page)

See  
Note 1

See  
Note 2





doors belonging thereto. And they apparently never finished it. Dan built the house where Mr. Swan and Geo. Harrington lived; in 1798 Levi Harrington moved into it.

See  
Note 1

When Dan Harrington bought this  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres in 1763, Abigail Harrington owned the land where Miss Gould lives and she must have been the Widow Harrington in whose house that school was kept when the new school house was being built about that time, 1763.

And in 1764 a miserable pauper, an Eggnatious Brown and 6 children were dumped on the town by the town of Woburn. The selectmen sent them to board with the Widow Harrington. Eggnatious Brown seems to have had an alias for he is sometimes referred to as Egnatious Merriam. His father or grandfather was Marion and lived near Judge Sewall in Washington St. Boston. He lived with his son later in Ashburnham.

Jonathan Harrington lived in this house at the time of the fight. You all remember that he was shot and died at his threshold.

Notes: Cont. from page 31.

on county road, East on Nathaniel Dudley's, and elsewhere on land bequeathed Nathan Munroe, for either of them to build on. Should they see fit to sell Nathan's heirs are to have the refusal of it. Apparently then, Marrett must have sold it before his death. Bryant remembered it and never knew who owned it. He said he had seen Baldwin and also Kimball. He was surprised they had owned it. They were coarse, rough fellows. I believe it sort of dropped to pieces, unfinished.

Note 1. I don't know that Abigail owned it. Egg. Merriam was sent to the Widow Abigail Harrington to board. She lived there. She died in 1776, Aug. 31, and Ruth (Harrington) Smith, widow of Jonathan Harrington, who lived there in 1775 sold it to her brother Dr. Fiske 177p.315 in 1777. I found no conveyance to her and found no conveyance to Jonathan Harrington. Jonathan's father Henry by will of 1781, left her 5 shillings. He died apparently 1792. (Probate 10413). See Green Book. The deed of Ruth to Dr. Fiske says "the premises lately occupied by the widow Abigail Harrington", which would lead one to think she lived there with them and alone after Jonathan died.

Richard Harrington's family seemed to have all gone to New Hampshire. He left no probate record in Middlesex nor did the widow Abigail. I looked after deeds also. Nothing! Mr. Johnson, the lawyer and antiquarian in Woburn, I believe recorded a deed about a couple hundred years after it was made. Bk. 22-228 - 1722, Benj. Muzzy sold Ben Bates 9 acres of land

(see next page)



I don't know how Abigail got the land. I don't see whose widow she was unless it was Richard Harrington, and I don't know how the house came to be the property of Ruth Harrington, whose husband Jonathan was shot on the threshold. She sold it a year or two later to her brother Dr. Fiske about 1777.

The Widow Abigail died in 1777, just before Ruth sold the property to Dr. Fiske. The deed says it was to property "lately occupied by the widow Abigail Harrington." Abigail was not the mother of Jonathan. Ruth (Harrington) Smith got 5 shillings on the death of her father-in-law, Henry Harrington. See Green Book 3, p. 8, Henry Harrington, Probate.

Notes Cont. from page 32:

and Mansion house: Highway East, Common South, John Muzzy East. Elsewhere John Hancock by a strait line. This looks like the Normal School land and the Gould house.

22-292 Benj. Bates to Wm. Simonds, 1723, Mansion house, shop and 8 acres of land: W. and N. W. by J. Hancock, East by Highway, South by town land, elsewhere Wm. Munroe and town land. What did Wm. Simonds do with it? I do not follow it. I did look to see who Abigail and Ruth got Gould place from, with no success. It has an appearance as if Abigail owned it and Jonathan and Ruth Harrington lived with her and then the title passed to Ruth. In her deed to her brother, Dr. Fiske, she sells him in 1777, "the premises lately occupied by the widow Abigail Harrington." The widow Abigail died in August 1776. She occupied the place then after Jonathan was killed. Dr. Fiske, I believe, sold to John Augustus. Probably you will find this in my notes. I about it once. Or Fiske sold it to Dr. Whitcomb and he to John Augustus.





As to the Common, the Meeting house stood at the eastern end of it facing down Main St. and after 1767 the belfry stood on it opposite the Wright house. And the little one-story school was just to the West of the knoll where the monument stands. This knoll was called School House Hill. In the last century there was considerable growth of brush east and west of this knoll on the common.

In the centre of the Common at the time of the fight there was a large hollow oak stump 4 feet in diameter and 8 feet high. 3 or 4 people could stand in it.

At each end of the Meeting house was an oak tree and in front of it two oak trees.

In 1713 a pair of stocks was placed on the common and in 1714 a second pair. They were near the meeting house.

A well was dug in 1734 between the monument and flag-staff. It had a curb and well-sweep.





Something about the People  
Who Lived around Lexington Common  
Between the years 1762 and  
1770.

M. J. Canavan.



Benjamin Muzzey of Lexington gave to his son John, a "clothier", May 10th, 1709, six acres of land by the Meeting house; the highway West; Hancock North. (Midd. Deeds 16-323 See Green Book 1, p 11.)

No house was then on the land; but in 1714 John applied for a license as inn-keeper, and the request was granted. He kept the Inn and post-office there many years. At least, the post-office was there at the start; and I know that during the Revolution, Captain Edmund Munroe wrote to his wife that when she looked for letters from him, to go to John Duckman's tavern for them.

Although John Muzzey kept tavern, he still carried on his trade as a weaver. At least in the earlier days; for in a deed by Joseph Estabrook in 1717, he called John a "weaver." A weaver would also be a "clothier" for he generally took his pay in a portion of the cloth he wove, and would have it on hand for sale.

John Muzzey was prominent in town, as assessor, constable, selectman. He married, first, Elizabeth Bradshaw of Medford, in 1709. She died Feb. 21st, 1722; and he married Rebecca Watts (Turner) Ingham, Dec. 6th, 1722. She was the daughter of Edward and Rebecca Watts of Chelsea. They came from England; for Mrs. Watts had inherited the Dellingham estate through her sister. It included most of Chelsea, but one farm.

Edward died in 1714, and his wife in 1719; leaving 2200 to her daughter Rebecca. There were four children, Edward, Daniel, Samuel and Rebecca. There was the large farm to manage, the ferry to Boston and the tavern; and of these, the tavern was the most important, for it was on the direct line from Boston to the "Eastward."

Note: See notes in Green Books about the Watts: Green Bk. 3. P. 5 et seq.





Young Edward ran all of them, but died early in 1727, leaving personal property to the amount of £1770, which was to be divided among his widow, his two brothers and his sister, Rebecca.

The widow soon married Thomas Greaves, a Warden of Christ Church, of which I believe Edward had also been a warden.

The sister, Rebecca, married the Reverend John Turner, officiating pastor of King's Chapel, according to Mr. Chamberlain's History of Chelsea; but I did not find his name in "The Annals of King's Chapel." He died, and in 1710 his widow married James Ingham. The probate record shows that James Ingham was of Cambridge. As I found that John Dickson and Jason Russell, both yeomen, were on the administration bond, I thought from the name Jason Russell that they would most likely have lived in West Cambridge. Neither Paige, in his History of Cambridge, nor Cutter, in his History of Arlington, mention Ingham. The widow, Rebecca, was made administratrix of his estate, September 5, 1720.

The inventory showed: Plate, 24 buttons, one watch, one pair "Buckells", £5.13 s. 6d., Four beds and Bedding, Pewter £6, Knives and Forks £1, Three Signs and Bar and Benches for use of the house £15, Indian Corn in the field £1.10s.0d., a Mare, a colt, Six small swine, Cash £3.10.5, One Man Servant, 3 years; One Maid Servant, 2 years (slaves) £6.0.0, a Bond in the hands of Samuel Watts of Wineshamit, the estate of Jonathan Turner, a minor, of £50. at interest.

Ingham must have either kept a small hotel or was a retailer of spirits, probably up West Cambridge way. Those signs, the bar and the £7 0.0 of liquor point to one or the other.

Note:

John Dickson lived by the Monetary River.





Rebecca became John Muzzey's second wife, and he was her third husband. She died July 12th, 1751, in the 49th year of her age; and John took a third wife, Mary ———, who died in 1753.

It would be interesting to know what Rebecca did with the "man-servant, 3 years old", and the "maid-servant 2 years old." A valuation of \$6 for these two little darky children seems optimistic. They were often given away. Slaves were not much in demand in New England. Someone gave a little colored girl to Swithin Reed over Burlington way. They say he rode home with her in one saddle-bag and a demijohn of rum in the other. She grew up as Venus Roe (I suppose her name indicates her parents belonged to the Monroes.), and when slaves were freed in Massachusetts, old Captain Jim Reed tried to give Venus her freedom, but she refused. She was old then. Captain Jim tried to put her off on the town, but did not succeed.

John Muzzey had five children by his first wife; none by the second and two by the third.

His daughter, Elizabeth, born in 1718, married John Hovey of Cambridge, of the class of 1725 of Harvard college. He was a teacher, and later became a minister; but his wife died in 1729 at the age of 17.

Mr. Muzzey had another daughter, Elizabeth, by his third wife, born Dec. 17th, 1734. She died three weeks after her marriage to Francis Faulkner of Acton, in 1756.

Mary, born in 1712, married Stephen Hall of Medford. They had eight children. She named her three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth and Jane.

Sarah Muzzey married Jacob Hill of Bedford. These Hills came up from Cambridge.

John Muzzey had a son John, born 1714, and Benjamin, born 1736.



Old John made a will in 1764, on January 24th, by which he gave his daughter, Mary Hall of Medford, £21. To son John, in addition to what I have given him, £11. To daughter, Sarah Hill £25. To daughter, Jane Stone, £2. To son Benjamin, £40. And his lands in Templeton to his sons, John and Benjamin. All the rest to his son Samuel Stone, and to my beloved daughter Jane, his wife. Samuel Stone was to be executor.

Note 1.

Samuel Stone, Jr., and his wife Jane came over and lived with the old man.

John Muzzey had given up keeping tavern; and John Raymond was making an effort at keeping an inn where John Mulliken later built his house. Further down the road on the opposite side at what we call the Munroe Tavern was John Buckman, senior, a retailer of spirits, and keeping a shop. In 1767 Sam Stone, Jr., became inn-keeper and retailer at John Muzzey's house.

Note 2

John Muzzey died March 28th, 1768, and his son-in-law followed him five days later. Probably some epidemic like small-pox brought them down. The widow, Jane Stone, was administratrix of both estates.

The town history of Templeton shows a map of grants on which John Muzzey had forty acres, which was increased to 120 acres. This was probably a grant for Benjamin Muzzey's services. When the troops met on Dedham Plains in the expedition to attack the Indians in the fort in the swamp in the dead of winter, a promise was made that if they succeeded, each man or his representative should have a grant of land, and this was to go to the eldest male representative. Benjamin Muzzey of Romney Marsh (and of

#### Notes:

1. His lands in Templeton he got for the Indian fighting by Benj., his father, I suppose.

2. Small-pox was a fearful disease. The country was full of people pitted and scarred by it. Hutchinson, in his History of Massachusetts Bay, quotes Dr. Douglass in regard to a terrible epidemic of small-pox in Boston 1721, the worst one they ever had. The population of Boston was 10,670. 5,000 of the inhabitants had small-pox that year. 144 died of it — 1721. Count up the Lexington deaths in 1768.





Lexington, also, for he was concerned in Bedford and Lexington) as well as his son Benjamin, was a soldier of the Three County Troop, and was in this fighting of the winter of 1675 and 1676. John was his oldest descendant.

This grant to John Muzzey which the history of Templeton shows, was of 40 acres which was increased to 120 acres. I suppose it was for the services of Benjamin Muzzey in the Narragansett campaign. Templeton was made Narragansett Township, No. 6, in 1735, or rather, Narragansett Township was laid out then at the place which subsequently became Templeton.

Those who had served in this campaign, or their representatives, made a claim for compensation to the General Court in 1728 and again in 1731 and were granted several townships six miles square, to them or their heirs to be divided into lots for 120 proprietors in each township. Narragansett 2 was Westminster, Narragansett 6 included Templeton and most of Phillipston. The whole body of claimants met on Boston common and drew lots for their Townships. Many sold their rights. Not much was done for twenty or thirty years on account of the war, though men were "sent into the woods" to survey.

Benjamin Muzzey, a younger brother of John, had served as a soldier in 1707. Nov. 25, 1729, he petitioned the General Court: "Benjamin Muzzey of Sherburne, showing that while he was a soldier in the service of the Province, he was taken prisoner by the Indians and endured a long and cruel captivity among them and narrowly escaped death; that the wounds and other hardships he received from the enemy have occasioned much sickness since his return; and a charge to the doctor; and prays for a grant of land or sum of money out of the Treasury in consideration of his sufferings and losses."

(Note: In the Green Books you will find more fully about these grants.)

He was granted 200 acres and allowed to lay out the same, provided it do not interfere with any other grant (Acts & Resolves, Vol. 11-447)





In the Maps and Plans of Grants in the Archives is one to Benjamin Muzzey of 200 acres near Wachusette, 1730.

John Muzzey left his Templeton land to his sons, John and Benjamin. But their names do not appear in Templeton history and they evidently sold their rights. Their father had started them in life, years before; and by this time John was settled in Spencer and Benjamin in Sudbury.

On old John Muzzy's death, and the death of her husband, Sam Stone, Jr., Mrs. Jane Stone was left with a tavern and a post-office on her hands. She had two daughters, Elizabeth, born Jan 5th, 1743, and Ruth, born Nov. 26th, 1744. Ruth married John Duckman, whose father of the same name, had been carrying on the business of retailer of spirits, till he died, February 17th, 1768, at the age of 51. Then young John took his place. He was then twenty-three years old.

On the 21st day of July, 1766, he married Ruth Stone; and kept on as retailer at what we call the Munroe Tavern.

Edmund Munroe made a note "July 25th, 1768, Then began to board with Mr. John Duckman." He had been stopping with John Raymond at his tavern on his return from Crown Point, where he had been selling cattle and filling orders; and buying furs to bring back. Burdoo and Egge Merriam were with him on the trip.

There was to some extent an obligation for Edmund to room at the Raymond Tavern in order to help out, for the house was running down, and John's mother, the widow Hepzibah Raymond, was the second wife of Edmund's uncle, Captain Thomas Munroe, who kept an inn in Concord and had looked after Edmund after his father died, and Edmund was learning his trade of

Note: Notice the number of deaths in the spring of 1768



shoe-making, a cobbler they called him. But from reports, a short stay at the Raymond Tavern was sufficient.

In a short time, Edmund Munroe and John Buckman were in the business of making potash from wood-ashes. They had a potash-works at the Munroe Tavern. They did not succeed in it.

I do not know the date of Elizabeth Stone's marriage to Joseph Simonds, but as the first child, Betty, was born May 30, 1769, the marriage was soon after the death of John Muzzey in 1768.

Their second child was Joseph, and from his son, J. F. Simonds, I know a little about them. "Old Fred Simonds", as he was called, told me his father and grandfather were of opposite dispositions. His grandfather was arbitrary, full of force. "During his day", he said, "he ruled the town with a rod of iron." His father was gentle and amiable. This is borne out by the showing in the Genealogies, for the Grandfather held the principal offices for years. "Old Fred" said his earliest recollection was of the old man's death in the Buckman Tavern, March 10, 1813. As Fred was then only two years and five months old, his parents thought it impossible. But he described the scene to them accurately and told me, "It seems impossible, but I remember it now, and how he looked, and what was done."





What was going on on the South side of the Common between 1760 and 1770.

William Munroe, the blacksmith, born in 1731, was the oldest of John Munroe's sons who were living in Lexington. John, the first born, had gone to New London in 1723, and had married and was a farmer there. William lived in a little story-and-a-half red house under the great elm where the hay scales are.

"Old Fred" Simonds described it to me, and he knew it before it was taken into Josiah Mead's shop. It is now the rear part of Spalding's store. "Old Fred's" mother was Mary Viles, the daughter of Joel, who bought the place in 1732, of Oliver Munroe, a tailor of Newton, the son of William, the blacksmith; and she lived in the house when a child.

Several years before 1765, William Munroe had a blacksmith's shop at the East corner of Malt Lane, and between the house and shop were sheds for horses; for you must remember that on Sundays, town-meeting days, and at the recurrence of the monthly Friday lecture, people rode in from far and near in calash or chair, but more generally on horse-back; and if the good wife came, she sat behind her husband on a pillion.

By his will in 1777, William left his house and land to his son, Oliver, who sold it to Joel Viles. Wm. left his furniture to his wife, his second wife, Tabitha Hobbs - Jones - Munroe. She was from Weston, the widow of Sam Jones; and brought with her to Lexington her son Sam, and her daughter Tabitha Jones.

On the right-hand side of Malt lane, slapped up against the side of Belfry Hill like a spit ball was the Malt house built by old John Munroe, before 1737. The lower part was of stone; above, it was made of bevelled boards, no clapboards. An upper story projected in front some two feet beyond the lower wall, showing its beams. Up the hill was a little





ell. The building was used as a residence in the early part of the 17th century.

Behind the hill, near the place where the brick school house now is, was the barn, sheep-fold and house built by John Munroe, in which his son Jonas resided. By his first wife, Joanna Locke, Jonas had five children; Jonas, who had been in the French and Indian war, and died in 1760.

John, son of Jonas, who was born in 1737, married Anne Kendall of Woburn, daughter of Nathaniel. Stephen born Oct. 13th, 1739, and Jonathan, who married Abigail Kendall, daughter of Francis and Mary; and Joanna, born 1747.

Jonas' first wife, Joanna, died in 1743, and in 1751, Jonas married Rebecca Watts of Chelsea. She was the niece of Rebecca Watts Muzzey, whom John Muzzey had married, and a daughter of Daniel Watts. If Mrs. Muzzey had lived till about 1750, we could imagine that the niece came to visit her; but she died in 1751, when the future Mrs. Jonas Munroe was only four years old. Chelsea in those days was remote from Lexington. It was on the road from Boston to the Eastward, but not on the highway from Lexington to the East.

Ten years later, one more Lexington man, Benjamin Cancee, in 1763, married Hannah Watts of Chelsea, another niece of Mrs. Muzzey, the daughter of her brother, Samuel. Chamberlain, in his "History of Chelsea", has much to say of this Watts family, for they had the big Bellingham farm, the tavern and the ferry to Boston.

Jonas Munroe had three children by his wife, Rebecca: Ebenezer, Rebecca and Martha. Jonas died November 7th, 1765. His oldest surviving son, John, was administrator. He was then 28 years old and had married Anna Kendall of Woburn, Dec. 20th, 1757.



Note 1. John Munroe did not hurry in settling his father's estate; for it was not half done when he himself died, in the spring of 1766.

The inventory of the estate of Jones was not filed till after the death of John. The appraisers to make the inventory and the prices were Timothy Winn of Woburn, Stephen Davis of Bedford and Sam. Stone, Jr. of Lexington.

Note 2. They found two Bibles and other old books, Armor £2.12 s.6 d., probably old John's head-piece and breast-plate and back-plate. A woman negro servant, Violet, £27.6s.6d. Pewter and brass. Joiner's ware £4.12 s.3d. Live stock £37.10.4. Money due from John Raymond £11.11.6. I doubt if that was ever paid. And so much joiner's ware would indicate that Jones had learned the trade.

The appraisers accepted the inventory given them by the widow, who took oath that John had made this full inventory, and that to her knowledge it was correct; but that her husband after making it, died before swearing to it. The appraisers found that there was an old dwelling house worth £3.6.8. One-half a cow £7.6.8. A malt-house and cellar £4.12.8. One barn £6.13.4. The house must have been rather primitive when you compare it's value with that of the malt-house and the barn. Old Fred Simonds could just remember the ruins of a house and barn in there, when he was a little child. He was born in 1810.

#### Notes:

1. There surely was an epidemic that spring. Probably small-pox. John Muzzey, John Stone, John Duckman and John Munroe and I suppose a good many more, if you look it up in the genealogies.

2. Violet Munroe. Job Locke, servant of Sam Locke, who lived up on Hillside St., married Violet, John Munroe's servant, Nov. 18, 1767, and Nov. 29, Mr. Clarke baptized Job.





The "House Lot", 13 acres, 11 1/3 rods, fronted the road at the Common, and reached up to the land which Dudley built his tavern; now the Wright place. It extended down Malt Lane, now Clarke Street; with the Malt House a little to the rear of Miss Clara Harrington's house. The house itself being near the present brick school.

The house lot reached to the brook and ditch, and beyond was his meadow land. Southwest of the "House lot" was Ministerial land, and to the Southwest was Amos Huzzey land, where Huzzey Street now is.

"Ten acres of meadow land adjoining the house lot" looks like the meadow land marked on the Atlas as owned by Newell and Robinson. It was bounded on the West by Mr. Moore's land; and I think Moore owned the present poor-house up on Hillside Street, and that his land ran down to the Concord Road.

The first poor-house was built by the town in 1784 and is shown on the map of 1788. It was up on a corner of Newell's land. Old Peter Tulip, a negro who had served in the Revolution lived there with his two daughters. Peter used to play for the dances at entertainments and his daughters acted as waitresses; and when Peter was resting for a moment, James Moore would slyly rub a candle on the strings of his fiddle-bow.

"The Pasture", 19 acres, 56 rods was "over the causeway." The lower road at Hastings Park, or the beginning of the road to Stone's, was made and built up and called "the causeway." Northwest of this land was Thomas Moore, Northeast Moore and Samuel Locke and town land. Southeast and south was town land and the common, next to the county road. As the town land and common are mentioned together, the town land may have been the burying place.





This pasture land would seem to reach up over the Gilmore land up to Moore's and Samuel Locke's, who lived on Hillside Street near Bedford Street. Hillside street is a portion of the old highway from Concord to Woburn and Salem, laid out in 1652. Lexington people used to trade with Salem in preference to Boston, as it was nearer in the days before there were bridges over the Charles. Of course, there was "the Great Bridge" at Cambridge, now the "Anderson bridge", but the route by that was round-about, eight miles to Boston from Harvard Square.

There is a Eng. map of this old road from Concord to Salem in the rooms of the Antiquarian Society at Worcester. A tracing or a photostat could be easily made of it.

There were traces of Samuel Locke's cellar a few years ago near the corner of Bedford and Hillside street.

The first Samuel Lock was one of the men with Captain Wiswell in the fight with the Indians in 1690 at Lamprey River (now in the town of Lee, N. H.) You can read of it in Cotton Mather's Decennium Luctuosum.

In 1735, he received 150 acres of land for these services. It was somewhere up around the boundaries between Lunenburg and Westminster. (See Journal of Mass. House of Rep. 1735.)

Sam Locke bought this land up by the Salem Road in 1742 of Benjamin Bates, who had purchased it of Benjamin Ruzsey. His son, Sam Locke, lived on this farm; but had too great a taste for good horses and fine clothes.

To return to Jonas Munroe's estate: he had 6 acres of "waste land" up by Mr. Moore's house; and one-half of four acres called the

Note.

Note: Moore's house I think was at the place occupied by the poor-house now or about 1900.



"Pound Pasture" with the county road north. The old pound of the 18th century was where the Congregational church now is; or rather, it was built in the road on the South side. The road was then wider, and some of it's land has been given to the abutters. This is all rather indefinite, but it is the best I can give for the bounds are vague.

The widow Rebecca received her dower "thirds" interest in the house, a seat in the pew, stable and yard room for her cattle, five and a quarter acres at the Southwest end of the house-lot for an orchard, pasturage, mowing and tillage; four acres, forty-four rods pasturage in "the pasture over the causeway." There were two springs in it and an orchard.

The assessors thought that the remaining two-thirds could not well be divided, and gave them to the eldest son, John, or his heirs. Stephen, Jonathan, Joanna, Ebenezer, Rebecca and Martha were each to receive £10.9s.4d. And 18s.8d. was to be paid to Violet, a negro woman for her services. In 1767, Violet married Job, a servant of Sam. Locke's.

The deaths, which occurred during the settlement of this estate would indicate some epidemic. John Munroe, a young man, died in the early spring. His neighbors went over to help and look after his affairs. John Muzey died March 29th. His son-in-law, Sam. Stone, Jr., a man of fifty had not expected to die when he became one of the appraisers. He died five days after his father-in-law, on April 2nd. Another young John Munroe died April 27th; and John Buckman, senior, passed away Feb. 21st at the age of fifty-one.

Small-pox was the worst scourge of that time. People in the country had not yet taken up inoculation. Later on the Rev. Jonas Clarke mentions in his diary, how he and his children were inoculated. Lexington was on the highway over which travellers brought in disease from infected places. John Muzey and Sam Stone, Jr. were especially exposed as they





met passers-by in the shop and tavern .

Anna, the widow, was made administratrix of her husband, John Munroe's estate, August 21st, 1768. Her father, Nathaniel Kendall, and Benjamin Estabrook, were her bondsmen. Estabrook was a coroner and a Justice of the Peace. The estate owed John Buckman £2: very likely it was for coffins for Jonas and John. He and his father made such things.

To Jane Stone was due £9.5.0. She had the Tavern and this would be largely for food and drink at the funerals, and perhaps some of the incidental expenses. To John Raiment, they owed £2.7. . This is one time when John Raymond was a creditor.

The inventory showed a considerable amount of pewter, a spinning and a woolen wheel, a few cattle and sheep, an old dwelling house in Woburn. Two-thirds of one-half a pew. Cash in the house; notes of hand and book debts £52.10.11; and about 40 1/2 acres of land in Lexington with the buildings.

John and Anna Munroe had the following children of whom she was made guardian in 1768:

Anna, born Nov. 18th, 1759  
John, born Aug. 14th, 1761  
Sarah, born Feb. 8th, 1765  
Lydia, baptized May 1st, 1767

They were in Lexington at that time, and Lydia was baptized soon after birth and Parson Clarke improved the opportunity to baptize Sarah and John also.

The widow, Anna Munroe, went to Woburn, her birthplace, and married Moses Tyler, as his second wife, June 28th, 1775. They had four children: Benjamin, born May 1st, 1771; Jonas, May 31st, 1773; John, April 4th, 1774, who died soon; and John, born April 4th, 1777.





In 1776, Moses Tyler was made guardian of Anna, Sarah and Lydia Munroe, minors; and of Benjamin Tyler and Jonas Tyler, grandchildren of Nathaniel Kendall. The child, John Munroe, had died in 1773, and probably some of the Tyler children had died.

As to the Lexington estate, on June 11th, 1770, Anna Munroe, Administratrix, sold to Dan. Harrington of Lexington 13 1/2 acres of the pasture land north of the Concord road.

And on the same day she sold to John Duckman 8 acres and 50 rods of "the house-lot" with a dwelling house, barn and malt house. The widow Rebecca's thirds were excepted. She also sold him the 10 acres meadow and swamp, Southwest of it, some of that land now on the map in the atlas as of Hewell and Scott.

Anna Munroe Tyler died March 18th, 1781.

What became of the widow Rebecca and of the children of Jonas? John and Jonas were dead. Stephen went to Woburn in 1766 and married Manny Perry, July 8th, 1766. Jonathan, August 10th, 1769, married Abigail Kendall, daughter of Francis Kendall. Both were of Woburn.

Joanna Munroe, at the age of 24, married John Adams in 1771; and he fortunately left an account of his life.

He was a descendant of John Adams, who owned the Golden Moore farm in Lexington in 1664; which reached along the Concord road from Independence Avenue to Tower's driveway. But he sold the farm, and the family lived in Arlington at it's centre. A portion of the house was cut off when the railroad was built.

Joanna's John Adams was the son of Thomas, who married a West Cambridge girl, and went to Worcester. She died and he married there, Lydia Chadwick, and they had two children, the younger of whom was John. Lydia died when John was four years old, and the father bought a tavern near the



old meeting house in Menotomy. It was later called Cooper's tavern. He married a third wife, Elizabeth, the widow of Ebenezer Dowman of Lexington. She had already three children by her first husband, and had three more by the second. The tavern was evidently enlarged afterwards, for John writes of the crowd eight children in one small tavern made. John grew up there in his woolen shirt and leather breeches, among the frequenters of the house.

In the French and Indian war, his father commanded the Cambridge Company in 1758. They were out eight months. John was fourteen at the time and wanted to enlist, but his father would not allow it. He went with the men as far as Springfield, and was then sent home. A large farm (1000 acres) had been given to Cambridge in 1735, at Ashburnham, to pay for the outlays on the "Great Bridge" over the Charles (at the Stadium). In 1764, Captain Thomas Adams was one of a committee to sell this farm, and he bought most of it.

His wife, Elizabeth Dowman Adams, had a farm in Lexington (probably at the Cotton place on Middle Street). It was rented to a mechanic. When John was 19 years old, he was sent there to work. That would be in 1764. The woman at the farm was confined, and Joanna Lamroe, then about seventeen years old, was her nurse. John talked with her and got leave to call at her father's. He was well treated, and called in the Spring, Summer and Fall, till he was twenty-one.

They wanted to marry, but John was poor, and she did not have much. Both tried to earn and save. He bought a piece of this Cambridge farm in Ashburnham. In the spring he worked on it, chopping down trees and clearing the land. In the summer he made bricks at Medford. In the fall he was again clearing the land, and planted two acres of rye. Then he returned to



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West Cambridge and made shoes for John Russell. In the spring he sold his bricks, and again went back to his land, and built a barn. He came back, made shoes for Russell, saved a little and began to build a house.

Joanna must have been impatient at the delay in settling her father's estate. She needed her £18.7s.4d. She was eager to go to the new farm. The widow Anna as we have seen, had sold to John Buckman and Dan. Harrington, June 11th, 1770; and Joanna, let us hope, got her money. At all events, she and John Adams were married July 2th, 1771. She probably laid out some of the money in buying up some of the household stuff; for John said she had some furniture which they carried in a team; and they set out on two horses. Her courage was good and never failed. The summer, fall and winter were pleasant. As the years passed by, they had nine children, all of whom married and left them. But he asked a son to live with them. After they had been married fifty-three years, Joanna died in 1822.

His father, Thomas, bought a good share of the Cambridge farm in Ashburnham, and went there with his wife to live in 1772. Both died there in 1822.

John Adams came down to Lexington the next day after the fight of April 19th, and stayed till a large army had assembled and things looked safe.

Ebenezer Munroe married Lucy Simonds of Woburn April 18th, 1731, and the next year they moved to Ashburnham, where his sister was. He settled in the South part of the town, where the Cambridge farm was. He was a prominent man, a lieutenant in the militia, moderator of town meetings and selectman for years. He had eight children, and among them were a Jonas, a John and a Rebecca called after his mother. One of Joanna's children was also a Rebecca.





After the death of Jonas Munroe, his widow, Rebecca, was in a deplorable situation. She did have her widow's thirds. But John was a step-son, married to a woman of another town. His procrastination in settling his father's estate, and his petty bickerings with the town leave an unfavorable impression. Generally, the widow has a son who is running the other two-thirds of the estate and helping her out also. But John died and his widow sold the property to outsiders, and went to Woburn.

Rebecca was left with no man to carry on her share of the farm. Her other grown-up sons had no interest in the estate. They were to receive cash. And by the time the estate was settled her step-sons were dead or had gone to Woburn, leaving her with Joanna and her own small children. Joanna was striving to work and save in order to marry John Adams and go to Ashburnham; and went as soon as the property was sold and she got her little legacy.

Who was to perform the manifold tasks on the farm? to plow, to sow, to reap, to cut and pile the fire-wood, to milk the cows, to gather in the crops, to pick the apples, and put them through the cider press? To be without cider was like being without tea and coffee in our time. There was the flax to be pulled at just the right time. Then it had to be rotted, a filthy job, then swingled and hatched, and the fibres spun into thread on the flax-wheel. The sheep had to be washed and sheared, and the wool spun on the Woolen wheel. That alone took a good part of a woman's time, standing by the wheel, working the treadle with the foot, spinning till nine or ten o'clock at night by the light of the fire or of a pine knot.

When the corn was gathered and shucked it had to be shelled on the edge of a shovel. The pigs had to be killed and salted.

"Did you ever eat fried pork for breakfast?" I once asked





an old man who had been brought up in a remote country town. (Mr. Jonas Priest.) He stared at me until I grinned; and he said, "Did I ever eat salt pork for breakfast, when I was a boy? I suppose that when I was a boy I ate salt pork for breakfast at the very least three hundred times every year."

There was the soap to be made; the bread, "rye and Injun," generally; but first the rye and wheat had to be reaped and flailed, and carried to the mill to be ground. Some of the barley went to the malt-mill to be wet and heated, made into malt and ground for the beer.

This is a scanty outline of the innumerable duties the housewife had to look after.

In 1773, the widow Rebecca Munroe, married John Muzzey of the Northwest part of the town, towards Lincoln and Bedford. He was a selectman that year. His son, Isaac, was killed on the Common, April 19th, 1775, and John himself took part in the fight, and was in the expedition against Ticonderoga in 1775 and to Bennington in 1777. Young Ebenezer Munroe had grown up by the time of the fight and was wounded on the common in the arm near the elbow. He returned the fire of the British. He mounted a horse and rode, giving the alarm to various towns, till he was exhausted.

#### Note:

On the Common of Lexington, Ebenezer's companion said that the British were only firing powder. Ebenezer said, "They have fired something besides powder now, for I am wounded in the arm." "As I turned," he said, "I discharged my gun into the main body of the enemy. Another ball passed between my arm and my body and just marked my clothes; one ball cut off a part of my earlock which was pinned up. The balls flew so thick I thought there was no chance of escape, and that I might as well fire my gun as stand still and do nothing." He claimed he fired the first gun on the American side. Being wounded, he mounted a horse and rode from town to town alarming the people and carrying with him the convincing proof that the war had begun in earnest. (Hist. of Ashburnham 178)





John Muzzey died in 1784, and left his wife, Rebecca, "all she brought me, and £13.6s. for one year, and £13. for another year, and nine cords of wood and building posts Dan. Harrington owed." He mentions that he had already given something to his son, Ebenezer Munroe.

After the death of John Muzzey in 1784, his widow Rebecca went to Ashburnham with her daughter, Martha, and lived with Ebenezer Munroe till her death in 1799. Martha died unmarried in 1793.

Ebenezer always claimed that he fired the first shot by the Americans; and after the fight on the common took two guns from some British soldiers and carried them to the Duckman Tavern, where they were given to Minute men who had none. He also served in the Jersies in 1776. He married Mrs. Lucy (Muzzey) Simonds of Woburn in 1781 and settled in the south part of Ashburnham in 1782. In 1787, he was lieutenant of the militia, was selectman for several years, and was moderator of the annual town meeting. He died May 25, 1825.

His sister, Joanna, had died in 1821, and in 1826, John Adams married Ebenezer's widow. Mr. Adams always had the respect and goodwill of his townsmen, and was often assessor and selectman. The sons of the original Adam, according to Genesis, had great length of days. John was like them. At the age of ninety he distributed his property among his children; and with a light wagon and horse drove to Harford, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, and back to Ashburnham. After this visit to his son James, he returned there and lived with him until his death in 1842 at the age of 124 years, 1 month and 4 days. There was no twilight of mental decay and feebleness. After he was a hundred years old, his hearing failed somewhat, but his eyesight remained good. (See Hist. of Ashburnham & Cutter's Arlington.)





Though his education when a boy was very limited, and then he went out into a wilderness, somehow he acquired a good style; he must have read much, most of all the Bible. His letters at the age of 101 are models, most happily phrased. Here is a scrap of one of them, which he writes to an old friend: "Divine Providence has so ordered that my body must return to dust in a strange land, that is, in a land far distant from where rest most of the ashes of my beloved relatives. Truly such would not have been my choice; but why should we be anxious about the clay, when the spirit has taken it's flight to God who gave it?"

Ebenezer Munroe's sister, Rebecca, was preparing confusion for the genealogist. She had a step-sister, Rebecca Muzzey. Her mother and Step-father were John and Rebecca Muzzey. She married her step-brother, making another John and Rebecca Muzzey; and their son John married Rebecca Darling, giving us one more couple of that name; not forgetting that John Muzzey, by the Common, started the custom by his union with Rebecca Watts-Turner-Ingham.

By 1771, the family of Jonas Munroe had either died off, or departed to Woburn, except the widow and her children, and they left for northwest Lexington in 1773. John Buckman and Dan. Harrington owned the estate.

Just above the Jonas Munroe land on the Main Street is the well-known house of Marrett Munroe, a brother of Jonas and son of old John. He was born in 1713, and married about 1735 or 6, Deliverance Parker. Captain John Parker, who commanded the Minute-men April 19th, 1775, was her younger brother.

The house was probably built before the marriage. We know at least that it was built before April 8th, 1737, for on that day old John gave Jonas a part of his land, and at the same time, gave the rest to



Marrett, for love and affection and sundry sums of money; a mansion house and land; South of the road, bounded West by land of Jonas; touching the Ministerial land on the southwest. The Dudley tavern was in the tract conveyed, for Nathan Dudley bought it of Marrett in 1705, bounded on the county road North, four rods, West by Marrett Munroe, four rods. S. W. on Marrett Munroe and Southeast on John Buckman. This was the Jonas Munroe house-lot which John had bought of Anna Munroe.

Old John gave Marrett another parcel of ten acres, which reached from the road up to the 8-mile line and included the burying-ground, and the lane leading into it. Southwest of it was Ministerial land. And eleven acres, meadow and swamp, with the Concord road N. W. and butting up against Ministerial land.

And still more, 10 acres with the Concord road on the southeast. I should suppose it was north of the Concord road, and ran up the hill to the West of the burying ground and east of Jonas, who was to have a cartway through the eighteen acres, and also a right of way to the Ministerial land. John also gave Marrett a half interest in the barn and house, he had already conveyed to Jonas.

This is all very vague. The only way to have certain knowledge is to run the title back from modern deeds and check up.

Old John had already provided for William, the blacksmith; for he had his house and land east of Malt Lane and also some land up by the burying ground, east of it. (The new part of the burying ground was a portion of it.)

Old John died intestate in 1753 and left personal estate amounting to £340. There were a number of Notes and bonds in it. This was, naturally, distributed among the heirs.





Marrett lived in the house opposite the Common. His son, Nathan, about 1763 married Elizabeth Harrington, a daughter of Henry, and I understand that they lived with Marrett, who was selectman in 1762, 1763, 1764, 1767.

In 1790 Marrett died, leaving a will, in which he is called "Yocman." He made provision for his widow, giving her the East room and a bed-room. He stipulates that she is to have flax and cider and that Nathan shall provide well for her, so long as she remains a widow. If she marry, and again becomes a widow, she is to have all these rights again. He gave the clock to Nathan; and mentions his daughters, Rachel Munroe, Mary Underwood, Bethia Munroe, Deliverance Winship and Elizabeth Buckman; and gives 5 s. to a child of his daughter, Anna Munroe, deceased.

Note.

To Rachel Munroe and Bethia he bequeathed a piece of land, four rods square, bounded north by the county road, east by Nathan Dudley, and elsewhere on land bequeathed to Nathan Munroe. The remainder of the estate was to go to Nathan: 60 acres of land and buildings. His property had grown. John left him 37 acres. (Marrett sold the 4 rods to Dan Harrington.)

Rachel and Bethia did not build on the land, but lived and died unmarried, Rachel in Boston; and Bethia in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Note:

This was the land Marrett bequeathed to his daughter but he sold it before he died to Dan. Harrington.

1791, Marrett Munroe and wife, Deliverance (her mark X) sold their 4 rods square to Dan Harrington, between Nat. Dudley and Marrett Munroe on the highway, before his death, and in 1796, Dan Harrington sold them to Cyrus Baldwin and Ezra Kendall of Woburn, between Dudley and Marrett Munroe with a new dwelling house partly finished and all the window frames, sashes and doors. Bryant had seen the men when a boy. They were coarse fellows. He said they never finished the bldg. and thought it went to pieces.

I think in the Notes or Deeds, two men, Baldwin and Kendall, began to build on this lot. I spoke of it to Bryant and he said "I've often wondered who built that place. It was begun and never finished and went to pieces. I remember those two men. They were coarse fellows."





Nathan's son, Josiah, was in the French war in 1782; and went out to the north-west territory, and settled in Marietta. Deliverance married John Winship and they moved to West Cambridge. Mary married Joseph Underwood. He was on the Common on April 19th, 1775. He bought 95 acres of Solomon Pierce in the south part of the town at "the place where Daniel Harrington lied William Smith." He was in that deed called a brick-maker. (Midd. Deeds 85-121 or Canavan Lexington Deeds Green Bk. 1- C.

Anna married Asa Nurse of Framingham. Elizabeth married Jacob Duckman, who lived in East Lexington, north of the road, by the brook. He moved to Woburn and grew rich in trade.



Let us have another glance around the Common to pick up what may have been overlooked.

On the North-east side was John Muzsey, grown old, his third wife dead, his daughters married off, his sons settled in new towns, for, though one might think from his will giving them land in Templeton, that he was just starting them out in life, long before that time they had followed their uncles to the borders of Sudbury and Framingham.

It would take too much space to trace their migrations, further than saying that young John went later to Spencer and became a leading man there: Deacon Muzsey. He helped the growth of the town by having fifteen children by his first wife, Abigail Reed, and none of them were twins or triplets.

The tribe of Muzsey was growing like a mustard seed, but it was scattered. Old John was left alone. He had given up inn-keeping some years before. He asked his favorite daughter, Jane, and her husband, to live with him and they started the tavern again.

On the South side of the lower end of the Common was the story-and-a-half red house of William Munroe, the blacksmith. He, too, was getting old and giving up business. Above him on the roadside were sheds for horses on Sunday. At the east corner of Malt Lane was his blacksmith shop, but not as late as 1765. It is likely he had sold it to Dan. Harrington when he moved up from the corner of "the road to Bridge's" to Elm Street in 1765, and had a blacksmith shop by his house.

Down Malt Lane against the hill was the malt-house, and further back in the field, the house, barn and sheep-fold of Jonas Munroe.

Marrett Munroe's house still faces the road, and above it, where the Congregational Church is at the side of the road was the pound. There





were no other houses up the road until one came to Mr. Moor's, which seems to be the present poor-house. Nor were there any other houses along the road at the time of the fight.

Note

Dan. Harrington bought his house on Elm Street of Sam. Jones in 1763, four and a half acres; bounded Southeast by the Common or highway, Southwest by the land of William Munroe, the blacksmith, Northwest by the eight-mile line, Northeast by Jonas Clarke and Abigail Harrington. She had the Gould house.

Sam Jones was the son of Tabitha Hobbs-Jones-Munroe. She had a son, Sam. Jones, born in 1738, and he came over with her when she married William Munroe. Sam married Esther Meriam Nov. 27th, 1760. They were both of Lexington.

What became of Sam. after selling out to Dan. Harrington is unknown to me. There were a dozen Sam Jones given in the Probate records. They were of various towns. Any one of them might have been this Sam Jones for all the clue the Index gave. I let him rest in peace.

Dan. Harrington had married Anna Munroe, the daughter of Robert, May 8, 1760, and probably moved up here, because it was a good location, and William Munroe was going out of business without a successor. His father kept on at the shop at the corner of Middle Street.

Note:

Sam. must have got this land of his step-father, William Munroe, the blacksmith. He owned East of the burying-ground. I think the new part of the burying-ground came from his land.





## Note

The Gould place at the corner of Bedford Street was occupied by the widow Abigail Harrington, the widow of Richard, a second wife; a hard-working woman who appears in the town records as "the widow Abigail Harrington."

When the town decided to build a new school-house, twenty feet square, on the common, where the old one was, they voted that in the meantime school shall be kept in the house of the widow Harrington.

When poor Ignatious Merriam, alias Brown, was dumped on the town with his wife and children by the selectmen of Woburn, the family was at first boarded by the town with "the widow Abigail Harrington." Of course, her price was the lowest. A little later the town hired room of the widow for them to live in. She died August 31st, 1776, but left no probate record.

Jonathan Harrington and his wife, Ruth, were living in this house April 12th, 1775, when Jonathan was shot down in front of his house, and died at his front door. They were married in 1766. His widow sold the house to her brother, Dr. David Fiske, in 1777, and married John Smith of Boston, the same year. Ruth described the property as a "Mansion house and barn, the premises lately occupied by the widow Abigail Harrington."

Henry Harrington, if I remember correctly, left Ruth 5 s.

## Note:

I don't know who owned the land. Jonathan Harrington's widow, Ruth, sold it to her brother Dr. Robert Fiske in 1777, "lately occupied by the widow Abigail Harrington". By vital statistics "the widow Abigail Harrington died August 1, 1776, leaving no probate record."

It is a pity they did not always record deeds and go through probate. This widow Abigail was not the wife of Henry Harrington, who did not die till 1820.

The last I knew of it, Wm. Simonds had it 1783. And Ruth, the widow of Jonathan sold it to her brother Dr. Fiske.

I don't know, but I fancy Ed. Harrington may have bought this place.





Note

There is no deed of record from Abigail to Jonathan or to Ruth. He was the son of Henry who did not die till 1771. Of course his wife was an Abigail; for, just as the John Muzzeyes took Rebeccas for wives, so the Harringtons chose Abigails. Henry's Abigail did not die till 1820.

This "widow Abigail Harrington" is elusive. Eliminating various ladies of that name who do not fit in, she may have been the widow of Richard Harrington. Richard also left no probate record. I believe he went to Hudson, N. H. but there is nothing of him in the history of the town; nor is there anything of his sons in Shirley records.

As to Egge Merriam, in the summer of 1768 he went with Edmund Munroe to Crown Point. Edmund carried up shoes and other articles the officers there had commissioned him to procure for them, and Egge and Burdoo helped him drive the cattle and sheep. He brought back furs and even at that date there was one man in Lexington who knew something about furs; for Abraham Bradshaw made up some fur hats of the skins brought back.

Though Egge Merriam was sometimes called Egge Brown, his real name was Marion. His father was Isaac Marion who lived in Charlestown; and his great grandfather, Samuel Marion, lived in Boston near Judge Sewall. Ignatious Merrism had seven children. Joseph was the sixth, born in Woburn Feb. 3rd, 1763. He lived in Lexington and during the Revolutionary War was of Lexington and then of Bedford. He served two months in 1777, and in 1781 was in Bedford, for that town hired him to go into the continental service for three months. That is, he was a substitute. He remained in the service during the war, and Sept. 25th, 1781, married Phoebe Russell, daughter of Philip Russell of Lexington. He lived then a short time in

Note:

The land, I believe, belonged to Mr. Simonds, 1783.





Bedford, but moved to Ashburnham in 1784, and acquired a good farm. He died in 1847. His father, Ignatious, and his mother lived with him and both of them died in 1799. Susannah, one of the daughters of Ignatious, married Ephraim Winship of Lexington, April 8th, 1777; and Phoebe, one of his son Joseph's daughters, married Philip Bowman, a son of John Bowman, who was the son of John and Susannah Coolidge Bowman. The descendants of Ignatious became leading citizens of Ashburnham, merchants and manufacturers. There were other Merriams in Ashburnham, descendants of Isaac and Sarah (Davis) Merriam; and descendants of Abraham and Sarah (Simonds) Merriam.

Ignatious Merriam was not the only person who had been "warned out of town" who turned out well. Jonas Munroe was fined for letting "Percilla Dimon" stay in his house after she had been notified to leave town. The next year she was a school-mistress in the North part of the town; and some other Dimond, perhaps a brother, was beating a drum on the common at day-break, April 19th, 1775, to call out the minute-men from the tavern.





In 1761 Isaac Stone gave a new bell to the town for which a "bell-free" was erected on "the hill north of the house of Mr. Jonas Munroe." He had been ringing the old bell and giving the meeting-house it's monthly sweeping at a very modest stipend; although sometimes his brother Marrett held these offices and was also keeper of the pound, custodian and mender of the burial cloth, and he and Nathan dug graves. Marrett was also fence viewer, and for several years selectman. The family had fallen into the position of managers of the Ministerial land, quite naturally, for they were next to it.

They pointed out where wood could be cut for the pastor, Mr. Clarke; and for the school-houses in Roe's district, or Smith's and Stone's or Reed's; and for the school-house on the common, which was a little to the west of the knoll on which the monument stands.

The common was unkempt, with scrubby bushes on it's south side. The meeting-house, clapboarded but unpainted, was at the lower end, facing down the road, with an oak tree at either end and two in front. Notices were tacked up by the door; and by the steps was a horse-block for women. In the centre of the common stood an oak stump eight feet high, with a hollow in the top big enough to hold three boys. In it they played the game of holding the fort against attacking foes. There was a well and well-sweep between the school and the meeting-house and there was another well and sweep across the road by William Munroe's house.

Though the town, in 1711, was going to have a pair of stocks, it proved more satisfactory to warn undesirables to move on, to notify people not to harbor them, unless they proved their right to stay in town. If they did not leave they were put in a cart and left miles away in some other town but they came back, as the house-cat does.



When John Munroe came over from Woburn in 1765, to settle his father's estate and assume his place as head of the family, he soon stirred up a quarrel with the town. In 1766, Sam. Stone, Jr., across the common, was appointed bell-ringer and church-sweeper, and John Munroe asked the town "to remove the bell-free" or "make some allowance for it's standing on his land." Probably he had been talking, and making demands.

The town voted "not to allow anything to John Munroe for the bell-free on his land." John insisted, and the town voted to put it on the ground "where William Munroe's blacksmith shop used to be, next to the sheds." The bell-free did not stay "put" and was shoved hither and thither and finally stood on the common.

This stirred up ill-will against John, but it did not include Marrett, for he was made selectman in 1767.

Jonas and Marrett were on good terms with the town. They and William had the job of cleaning up the Ministerial swamp and turning it into mowing land. Jonas was made lieutenant in the Lexington Company, and military honors were the highest distinction in those days. Captain Sewall sounded sweeter in the old judge's ears than his judicial label.

The town never complained that Marrett over-charged. One of his bills for "moving Charity Raymond, cleaning up the burying place, underpinning the meeting-house, and sundry other things done for the town" was £-1.14 s. 5 d. in poor New England currency.





In looking up the data of these families one sees how they multiplied and scattered over the land. They were not simple stay-at-home bumpkins. There had been a big seven-year war. Yes, more than seven years in America, for it began with George Washington's fight out near what is now Pittsburgh, in 1754, and the troops did not all get through it before 1763. Each year, Massachusetts was sending forces to the front, to Crown Point, Lake George, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Maine; some years, from 5000 to 7000 men.

In each town was a company. In Lexington Benjamin Reed was Captain and Jonas Munroe, lieutenant. When there was a demand for men, the numbers required from each town were sent to the officials and soldiers were enlisted from the company. If a sufficient number did not enlist, they were "impressed."

Then there was a bounty of £7 for enlisting, fair pay, and a big bounty for Indian scalps. Men who were unwilling to serve if impressed, paid a fine or found a substitute to go.

Sam Jones, "born in Weston" but living in Lexington", was in a couple of campaigns. So was Jonas Munroe, Jr. There was also a John Munroe from Lexington, but I think he was the son of Daniel. Stephen Munroe, a son of Jonas was "watching the Indians" in 1762. With him was Josiah, Harrett Munroe's son. Also, I have seen the name of a Dan Harrington, down on the Kennebec at Ft. Halifax, 1758, but do not know where he came from.

Each spring there was a call for more troops and as the war went on the young men took to it and the quotas were readily filled.

At the beginning of the war they wore their own clothes but were given a blanket, a powder-horn, bullets and bandolier, a wooden water-bottle. If a man brought a gun, he received two dollars extra.





After the war was half through, they wore blue uniforms. The conditions in camp were bad. Many died of ailments which at the present day would have been prevented. People were always going to and fro over the roads bringing disease with them: small-pox especially. It was a terrible plague in those days.

Taxes were tremendous. At the end of the war Massachusetts was nearly bankrupt. There were many requests made to the town to "sink" this or that man's rates, as he was in the war; and widows and orphans had to be supported. Men who were reported dead turned up unexpectedly.

Rogers began enlisting soldiers in Middlesex County for the province of Massachusetts; but roused Governor Wentworth's ire by reaching out into New Hampshire. Captain Thomas Munroe's tavern at Concord was the assembling place. Edmund Munroe was there, learning his trade as shoe-maker. His father had died suddenly in 1747, over on Cooke's Road, now Lowell Street leaving quite a family of small children. You can see his grave-stone, which reads, "Here lies William Munroe, the first buried in this burying-place." That meant, in the new addition to the original piece of land. Edmund was still a boy, and went to Concord to live with his Uncle Thomas at the tavern. The company was ordered to fall into line there.

After Lord London came into command of the army he enlisted the Rangers as crown soldiers, and gave them a kind of Highland dress with blue shirts, gaiters, and a blue cap or bonnet.

All returns about them would be sent to England. I made inquiry of the Public Record office at London and was told that such documents ought to be in General Amherst's papers, which were still lying in their vaults unopened.

Note: I believe it was in Captain Knox' diary I saw the dress described as you will see in the story "Don Comee."



Rogers, though a good frontier soldier, was a rascal. After the French and Indian war he went to England, and Edmund Burke gave a power of attorney to someone to sue him for money Rogers owed him.

The English officers had in general been very supercilious, and the Americans disliked them. After this war, came the Stamp Act, the resolutions against it, several thousand regulars, the Boston Massacre, the Boston Port Bill, the revocation of the charter, and the province was ready for the 19th of April, 1775.

A large proportion of the men on the common had served as soldiers, and were not novices at war.





## THE GOLDEN MOORE OR JOHN ADAMS FARM.

M. J. Canavan.





A partial Description of the Adams or Golden Moore farm.

The town of Cambridge had given it to Golden Moore and he, in 1664 (See Proprietor's Records of Town of Cambridge) sold it, 117 acres, to John Adams, 117 acres in the Waste land in the 7th mile. (i.e. It ran up to about Tower's driveway and down to Independence Avenue.) Widow Russell N.E. (which she bought of Rd. Jackson), Alewife Meadows East, Joseph Holmes South, Common land West and Pelham N. W. with allowance for the great highway to Concord and allowance for highway that leads to Matthew Fiske (Main St. and Middle St.

Midd. D. 13-665, John Adams of Cambridge to Edw. Emerson of Chelmsford, 120 acres, 1703. S. W. Francis Bowman and Common and Dr. Cooke's land, S. E. Nicholas Fessenden, N. E. Jona. Dunster, John Russell and Sam. Cooke, N. W. John Mason.

M.D. 17-115, Edwd. Emerson to John Mason, tanner, Nov. 5, 1703, 20 acres at farms. John Mason N.W., Francis Bowman, S.W., S.E. by Emerson, John Russell N.E. This is the lower part of Mason's Hollow. Mason had 20 acres of Estabrooke's land and 20 acres of the Adams farm.

The 7 mile line was the boundary and that I think was near Tower's driveway.

M. D. 14-37 - 1704, Edwd. Emerson to Percival Hall, 71 acres. N. W. John Mason, N. E. John Russell, S. E. Sam Cooke and town land, S. by Fessenden.

17-145 - 1703 - Edwd. Emerson to John Mason, tanner, 20 acres. John Mason N.W., Francis Bowman S. W. and a direct line from Bowman's land to John Russell land as upon Russell's line, and by John Russell N.E. (Mason's Hollow and meadow north of it.)

14-506, Edw. Emerson about 1700, to Sam. Hancock, cordwinder ( That is rope maker and twine maker) 7 acres ( cor. Bridge and Concord road.) at



Cambridge Farms: N.W. by John Mason, N. E. Concord road, S. by way leading to Matthew Bridge's, S.W. by Francis Bowman (the Cotton place). The Munn place - Hancock only held this a few years but the name, Hankers, stuck to it 200 years.

16-201 - 1705 - Edw. Emerson to David Mead, 1705 - 18 acres: N. Concord road, E. Fessenden, S.W. Common land, West Bridge's path. 1714 Mead sold it to Robt. Harrington - the P.P.Pierce place.

20-281 - 1711 Percival Hall to Joseph Brown, cordwainer, 9 acres: S. by County road, W. by John Mason, N. by John Russell, East on said Brown.

15-162, Percival Hall to Isaac Powers, husbandman, 31 acres: S.W. on Concord road 71 rods, N.W. on Hall and Russell, S.E. on way that leads in to Russell (This way was the beginning of Maple St. and then it followed the lane back of Kennison hill.

Isaac Powers to Joseph Brown, 1710, 31 acres,- mansion house and 31 acres, mansion and barn. (The above 31 acres which Powers got of Hall.

Percival Hall to Thos. Cutler, 50 acres, 1712, S. by Fessenden, East by Wm. and John Russell, N. by John Russell and Philip Cooke, N.E. by Philip Cooke, N. John Russell, N.W. Joseph Brown, S.W. Concord road. A spurway two rods wide laid out by town committee through part of premises excepted, with a dwelling and barn (The spurway I suppose was the beginning of Maple St. which originally led in to Russell's), at the beginning of the 19th century. The Bowmans had two old buildings at Geo. Wheaton's and one was very old.

20-283 - Percival Hall to Joseph Brown - 1710 - 9 acres: S. Concord road, W. John Mason, N. John Russell, East on Brown. (Just below Mason's Hollow.)

16-206 - David Mead (housewright) to Robert Harrington of Water-





town, blacksmith, 1711. 20 acres - N. Concord road, West by Common formerly, S. Nicholas Fessenden. (The P. P. Pierce place. Harrington owned a good deal of land on the south side of the road. Many people owned little lots they had bought of the town and Harrington bought of them and consolidated them.)

84-531 - 1761 - Francis Brown to Benjamin Brown - 37 acres: begin at fence in middle of brook, S. Benjamin Brown by said brook to John Mason and then South on Mason by the brook. Then West on Joseph Fiske by old ditch., N. by Philip Russell and Francis Brown to corner of great wall. N.E., N. and E. on Francis Brown to said fence in brook. Francis reserves the buildings on said land and right to remove them at a time that will do least damage.

That was the Brown place down by the brook to which the women and children ran April, 19, 1775, and from which they could see the bayonets as the flankers passed over Tower's hill. Perhaps this was the other old Brown house where Wheaton lives. I mean perhaps he moved it to that place and left only the stones at the brook.

Brown got this land and house from Russell and Russell was then from way back. The beginning of Maple St. and the lane back of Kennison's was laid out as a way to Russell's, 1764. It is generally spoken of as a private way. It was a town way

Midd. Deeds 52-40. Thos. Cutler, Jr., yeoman, to Jonathan Harrington, Feb. 20, 1749, 1850, two dwelling houses, barn and 80 acres of land: S.W. by county road, S.E. Thos. and Sam. Fessenden partly, and partly on Walter Russell, East and North on Wm. Winship and Capt. John Wooton, N.E. part on Deacon Joseph Brown and partly on a private way till it comes to road first mentioned.





What he calls a private way was the beginning of Maple St. but it was owned by the town. Now this is the place where the big elm is; I suppose 1749, maybe 1749 or 1750, but Jonathan planted it when his daughter Rebecca was about three years old and told her to watch it and see it grow and every Sunday as Charlotte Brown walked up to church from the Brown's place (Wheaton's) her grandmother Rebecca would tell that story and talk of its growth. That would make the planting of the tree about 1753 or 1754. Jonathan Harrington did not plant it in 1732 when he was 9 years old, on Mr. Cutler's land, and Robert Harrington did not own any land on the North of the road.

Bryant, I suppose, told that and if he did he got mixed. He knew better. He knew Jonathan planted the tree, not Robert. As Jonathan grew old, he split up his property among his sons. I have something about it in my book of talks. The old house was early in the 19th century, a plastered lean-to.

M. J. Canavan.



SOME OLD LEXINGTON ESTATES  
AND  
HOUSES ALONG CONCORD ROAD  
AND  
THE DESCENT OF THE MURDOE TAVERN FROM  
EDWARD PEYHAM TO WILLIAM MURDOE, 1770.





## THE MUMROE TAVERN.

The Proprietors of Cambridge granted 600 acres of land at Cambridge Farms to Roger Harlakenden at an early period. Roger died. Herbert Pelham married his widow; and the farm was given to him. From the Proprietor's record, it appears that there was a house on it as early as 1642. (Roger Harlakenden, whose widow he married, had the grant before him.)

Herbert died in 1674. His son, Edward, was a scapegrace. He probably would have sold if there had been a demand for his land; but people were obliged to go to church or be fined, and they settled on "the skirts" of towns, in order to be as near as possible to a church, leaving the centre unoccupied. The centre of Somerville was all farms when I was a boy. People had gone to church in Cambridge and Charlestown.

When the "Farms" were set off in 1692, conditions altered as the inhabitants were to have a church of their own in the centre of the parish. Edward Pelham's land became desirable; and on the 12th of November, 1693, (Midd. Deeds, Bk 10, p.231) he sold 206 acres of it to Benjamin Muzzy, farmer, of Cambridge. Though Benjamin Muzzy bought this land in 1693, Paige has a list of Ratable Polls and Estates of Cambridge, 1688, and Benjamin Muzzy is among them. He was here before he bought the land of Pelham. (See Paige's History of Cambridge, 444.)

"106 acres is properly a part of said farm, including the highway to Concord, which lyeth on the northwest side of said farm, abutting on the northwest side of the other 100 acres, which is a lot laid out to Edward Pelham of Cambridge lately; and partly on the Northwest side by land of John Mumroe and land of John Cooper, and land belonging to the ministry of Cambridge Farms; and ye West end butts on land of Matthew Bridge about 25 poles, then easterly till it comes to the South of Vine Brook, and then Northwest till it comes to the highway near ye aforesaid brook and passeth





over ye highway in a straight line to a stake, and then Northwest to the line first mentioned, 106 acres.

"Also, a certain Dwelling house, barn and housing-holds pasture, meadow lands.

"Also, 100 acres of land adjoining said land, 100 acres lately laid out to said Pelham, and surveyed for 100 acres, the 8 mile limit West; John Munroe, south; John Tidd, North; and line of my farm southeast, with all the housing holds; with all the housing thereon, the holds, also pastures."

In a rough way, this land might be said to run from Vine Brook up to the ditch back of the burying-place, extending up the hill to a wall back of Hayes' barn, bounded by the estates or the Street S. W. of the Common, to the hay-scales, or a little below them, and then reaching over nearly to Grapevine Corner. South of the road the brook was North of Muzzy's line, but North of the road the line was North of the Brook.

Note 1

The fact that the northwest 100 acres of this Muzsey land was not in the land held by Herbert Pelham would indicate that the Duckman Tavern land was not in the original holdings. Then, of course, the house was not there.

To John Poulter, Edward Pelham sold 212 acres on the South side of the Concord road, reaching from the Sanderson-Downing-Whitney lot up to the Muzsey land, which on that side of the road was South of the brook.

Note 2

He conveyed to Joseph Estabrook of Hingham, 200 acres, North of the road; the Southeast boundary would be a line opposite Tower's driveway approximately; and it reached up along the northeast side of the road to Muzsey's land a little beyond Vine Brook.

Note 1: The Duckman Tavern land, 6 acres, was sold by Benj. Muzzy to Mr. John Muzzy, 1709. No house on it.

Note 2: The Concord minister treated this as his land and after death of the Rev. Benj. Estabrook, gives 1/4 to Widow Abigail and 3/4 to son Joseph.





He also deeded him 14 acres on the other side of the road, 87 rods deep. That was to the Southeast of the Munroe Tavern lot, and should extend about 500 feet down to main road, very near to Tower's driveway. An old post stood there on the wall for years. I always had an idea it marked the dividing line. It was apparently a post of an old fence.

Though the land was conveyed to Joseph Estabrook of Hingham, his father, the Reverend Joseph Estabrook of Concord, paid the money, and treated it as his own, for after the death of his son Benjamin, he gave a quarter of it to the widow.

In 1697 (Midd. D. Bk. 12-85) Ebenezer Nutting sold to Isaac Johnson of Hingham, the southeasterly 50 acres of this Poulter land with a small dwelling on it. This was where the Munroe Tavern is. There is no conveyance of record from Poulter to Nutting, but Poulter witnessed the deed, which shows that he recognized the title was in Nutting and that he had a right to sell.

Nutting was taxed in Cambridge Farms in 1693. He must have bought this tract between Nov. 10, 1693, and 1697; and put up the small dwelling. Three of his children were baptized in Lexington, January, 1699, and two in 1703. I think he had a farm up near Bedford on Hancock Street.

This Isaac Johnson was born in Hingham, 1668. His father, Humphrey Johnson, was from Roxbury; He was 31 years old at the time he bought. His wife's name was Abigail, and his children born in Hingham were Abigail, born 1689; David, 1691; Hannah, 1695; Solomon, Mch. 9, 1697; and Daniel, April 2, 1700. This would indicate that after living here, he returned to Hingham.

Oct. 9, 1699, (M.D. Bk. 34-110) Isaac Johnson, of Hingham, sold to John Comee the above 50 acres with a small dwelling and shop thereon. John Mason and Francis Bowman on the Southeast. This Mason land was the





14 acres of the Estabrook land, which lay south of the road. The Francis Bowman land was back of it towards Middle Street.

John Comee was the son of one of those Scotch Redemptioners who were sent over in the John and Sara, 1651, at the time William Munroe came. They were prisoners, probably taken at the battle of Worcester. The father first appeared as David Makhomey, which became Macomey and Comeo. David was in Woburn, 1663, perhaps near the Munroe's in "Scotland." In 1676, he was servant to Edward Burt. I think I got that from Wyman's Genealogies. In 1664 he moved from Woburn to Concord. His first wife, Elizabeth, died March 4, 1671, and Wyman says he married Hester King, 1671. He was killed April 21st, 1676, in the fight with the Indians at Sudbury, and his wife, Esther Comee of Concord, petitioned the General Court, stating that her husband was killed by the Indians at Sudbury, leaving her a widow with six small children, four of them by a former wife, none of them of age, the youngest six weeks old. She asked for a guardian for them, and that they be put out to some good places, that the boys may learn some trade. Her estate was only worth £33. (The inventory in Probate file is a beautiful piece of writing.) She married Samuel Perry, Nov. 7th, 1682; and as there were some Perrys among these Scotch redemptioners, he may have been one of them. The son, John, married Martha, the daughter of William Munroe, in 1682. He came from Concord to Lexington between 1690 and 1693. I remember that he joined in with old William Munroe and some other of the clan in buying some of the Cooke farm land, 100 acres, I think it was. The first of John's children was born in Concord. John died in 1729.

Note: The inventory is a perfect piece of writing, a model in the old English script.





In 1728, John and Martha conveyed a right in Concord "which belonged to the tenement, where my honored father formerly dwelt, in the south part of Concord, known as Scotland." There was then a Scotland in Concord, as well as in Lexington.

His son David was made hog-reeve in 1719; and married Ruhamah Brown. In 1719 (Bk. 19, p. 319) John and Martha Comee conveyed to David Comee, 30 acres, bounded S.E. by John Comee, S.W. by Matthew Bridge, E. W. by the widow Poulter and Joseph Loring, W. E. by Whittamore, N. E. by Concord road, "and the south end of the mansion, being all the old end, with privilege of wood-yard and water from the well, and also land to build an addition to his father's barn." David was the only son, as his brother John, born in Concord, died young. Probably the John Comee killed in the war 1707.

Here you see that the little dwelling has become an ell at the south end of the new house, which faced the street, as it does now. But its shape was like that of the Hancock house. The ell was south of the East part of the main building.

John and Martha put their marks to this deed in the presence of Joseph Loring and John Hancock. It was signed before Jonas Bond, Justice of the Peace. He was a friend of Mr. Hancock and lived in a little house on his land. He was really a sort of associate judge of "Common Pleas." That is like a judge of our Superior Court. I got the impression he was only called upon occasionally.

John Comee died December 6th, 1729. Marthan and a child died March 3rd, 1730. And David's wife, Ruhamah, died April 28th, 1730. (Some epidemic) He married again, one Sarah Johnson of Woburn, and by her had seven children.



At the time John Comee made the conveyance to David in 1719, David had been married a few months to Ruhamah Brown, daughter of Joseph Brown, afterwards Deacon Joseph Brown who lived in Munroe meadows. It looked as though his father had expected the young couple to live in the ell.

Bk 33-397

Perhaps he did live there, but on Dec. 5, 1732, David Comee sold to Peter Jennison of Sudbury a mansion house, barn and two acres, bounded N. W. by Joseph Loring, N. E. by the Concord road, elsewhere by David Comee "as the walls stand at the corners." Now, you will soon see that this was the place occupied by Nathaniel Mulliken, where he made his clocks at the easterly corner of Bloomfield Street. Or rather, the dwelling was on the knoll, where Morris built. He found traces of the house; and the barn was on the street level. It looks as though David had built there and occupied it, until the death of his father, and then sold to Peter Jennison.

Peter Jennison sold this house and land to Thomas Raymond, tailor, Nov. 15, 1732 (35-368). Thomas Raymond sold it to John Overing, March 3rd, 1734 (43-423) Overing sold to Ebenezer Bowman, a blacksmith from Gloucester, Oct. 26, 1748, and he had a blacksmith shop down by the pump. It was used by Nathaniel in making metal works for his clocks. Nat. Mulliken carried a pail of water up from the pump one day, sat down and died. And in 1749 or 1750 (B 55-415) Ebenezer Bowman sold it to Nathaniel Mulliken.

Now that I have shown that David Comee used to own the Mulliken land at the corner of Bloomfield Street, and probably built the house where Nat. Mulliken lived, we will return to what was left of the estate in David Comee.





In 1739, (Bk. 39-55) he sold to John Overing of Lexington, a messuage and 26 acres of land, bounded N. E. by the Concord road, N.W. by Overing, and Joseph Loring; S. by Loring, E. by land of John Mason, deceased. That Overing land on the N.W. was the Nat. Malliken lot. I do not know where David lived after he sold, but he had several children born in Lexington after that date.

His son David was in the battle of Lexington, and his son Joseph, who was a cordwainer or shoemaker and married Mary, a daughter of Benjamin Merriam, had a son Joseph, who was wounded on the 19th of April as he ran from the church to the Marrett Munroe house. David's children dispersed to various towns; and the family have a tradition that David died in 1800 at the age of 104 years.

In the N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg. Vol. 57, pp.335 and 418, it is said that John Overing was allied to the family of Lord St. John Bolinbroke. Mr. Overing came to this country in 1720 and married Henrietta, a daughter of Judge Auchmuty. He was Attorney-general at times: 1728 to 1733; 1740 to 1747. The account says he lived in School Street.

In 1730 (Bk. 39-393) John Overing bought in Lexington of Wm. Russell, 51 acres North of the Munroe brook, with Jos. Brown, Jason Russell S.E; Philip Russell on the East; Philip Russell, Jr., North, and John Mason West. There was a "barn and other edifices on it." In his turn, in 1735, John Overing sold a Mansion and 1 1/4 acres to Deacon Joseph Brown, and 36 acres to him in 1737; and to James Brown 13 acres in 1747. This land bought and sold by Overing was where the Browns lived in Munroe's meadow by the brook, in the middle of the 18th century.





In 1735, Mr. Overing was taxed in Lexington for three houses, two slaves, three cows and two horses.

He lost three children from throat distemper in 1738. Henry, August 7th; Henrietta, Sept. 13th; and George, Sept. 17th. If this was diphtheria, it was a terrible scourge up to a few years ago. Up in the Maine woods I was told of its sweeping seventy miles along the Canada road northward from the Forks of the Kennebec; and they had no remedy. Pork fat on the soles of the feet was tried in vain.

Another Henrietta Overing was baptized in King's Chapel Jan. 11th, 1740. As he was attorney-general for several consecutive years at that time, he had probably moved in town, though he did not sell the Comco land to John Buckman till 1747.

John Overing died in Boston, Nov. 24th, 1748, at the age of 54. He must have been 26 when he emigrated. He left a widow, Henrietta, and five children, Elizabeth, Robert, Mary, John and Henrietta. I think his will gave them in the order of their ages. We know Henrietta was born in 1740. As Elizabeth was to receive so much as was her's by "settlement of her grandfather, Sir. Henry Furnice," she must have been the daughter of a first wife; and Henrietta, the daughter of Judge Auchmuty, a second wife. His will says: "What Elizabeth gets by her mother's side will be given out of my personal estate." He left his "house and land on Boston Common near the writing school" to his wife for life, and then it was to be sold and the proceeds divided among the children.

Unfortunately, his estate was insolvent. There was not enough to pay the creditors. This house must have been on Mason Street in the vicinity of the engine house.

Minot, in his History of Massachusetts, says Overing was appointed Attorney General by Gov. Burnet, and that he served till his (Overing's)





death. Horace Walpole, in his "Later Journals", mentions the Furnice family as if they were of some importance.

It looks as if he had been sent over here to hold some good place. His first wife evidently had inherited some fortune, or rather, her father had left it to her daughter; and Overing, by his will, left this daughter first claim on his property; but his estate was insolvent.

Washburn's Judicial History of Mass., p. 205, says: In 1722, the house chose John Overing Attorney General. In 1723 John Reed. In 1728 Governor Burnet nominated and council confirmed John Overing as Attorney General. The house wanted Addison Davenport, Jr. The Governor resisted and the house yielded. The house tried again, 1732, to elect John Reed but C. v. Belcher negatived the choice as there was an existing atty. who had been appointed agreeably to the Royal Charter and his Majesty's instructions to his governors. In 1733 the Council yielded and joined the house in electing this officer.

From 1733 to 1742, the House and Council continued to elect him annually. Overing was elected after being displaced at the election of 1733, during the years 1732, 40 and 41, and again in 1743, and was annually elected until near his death which took place November 24, 1744.

Mr. Overing is represented by Dr. Elliott as having been a remarkable fluent and agreeable speaker at the bar, an able and successful lawyer, and as having acquired both fortune and influence in the Province. Nevertheless, he died insolvent. From the fact that Horace Walpole mentions the family, it occurs to me that Robert Walpole told the Governors to get him the place.

Note: Burnet was probably told from England to put Overing in that or some position.





In 1747 (Bk. 47-153 Midd Deeds) John Overing of Boston sold to John Buckman of Lexington, housewright: a mansion house and twenty acres of land, bounded N.E. by the Concord road and N.W. by land Overing bought of T. Raymond, S.W. by Loring, and W. and N.W. by land of Mason and Joshua Bond. This last boundary is surely wrong. It should have been southeast by Joshua Bond and Mason; for Joshua had bought some of the Mason land which was previously described as on the Southeast; and no matter how it was described, it was southeast, for the Joshua Bond land was the Sanderson place and the Mason land was back of it. The T. Raymond land is the Nat. Mulliken place, the S. E. corner of Bloomfield Street and Mass. Avenue. Overing bought it of Thomas Raymond, a tailor, in 1736, with a house and barn on it. The house on the spot where Morris built a house on the hillside; the barn by the corner.

John Buckman was a housewright; but after he got this location, he became a retailer of spirits, and kept store till his death Feb. 17th, 1768; when he was succeeded by his young son, John Buckman, who married Ruth Stone and kept the store for a short time; but his mother-in-law, Mrs. Stone, had a tavern up at what we call the Buckman Tavern, on her hands, and he sold out to William Munroe and went up town and a division of the Stone property was made by which he owned the tavern by the Common and kept it at the time of the Revolution.

In Book 75 - 401, is a deed from John Buckman to William Munroe, October 12th, 1779. That was Sergeant Munroe, later Colonel William Munroe, a cooper by trade. John conveyed a mansion house, barn, wood-house, with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a potash-house and works thereto belonging; and 26 acres of land, bounded Northeast by the Concord road; Northwest by the Mulliken heirs (E. A. Mulliken planted an elm tree at the dividing line at Warren Sherburne's driveway.) S. E. by the Loring heirs; and West and Southwest





by John Mason and Joshua Bond. Here they blindly follow the description in the previous deed. Mason and Joshua Bond were Southeast, or a little East of South.

These potash works were the result of a business which John Buckman, Edmund Munroe and others engaged in, in 1768. Edmund Munroe went to board with John a few days after he married, July 25th, 1768. They were to make potash from wood-ashes. Edmund collected the ashes and conducted the business. It was not a success and was given up. Edmund married, and went back to his farm over on "the way to Cooke's farm", or Lowell Street; and took up shoe-making again. He was a good soldier but a poor business man.

I had talks with William Munroe, the grandson of Sergeant Munroe, or as he afterwards became, Colonel Munroe. I sat with him in his sitting room at the right of the entrance. It was formerly the bar-room. Sergeant Munroe occupied the house before the date of the deed. Beside keeping the Tavern, he also had the John Buckman shop in which a supply of Liquors, molasses and sugar was kept in barrels. The shop was separate from the house and back of the bar-room.

The Raymond family had kept tavern a little above on the opposite side of the road. John Mulliken used the materials of the tavern in building his house on the same site. These people, Raymonds, had been on the down-hill road for years; and John's tavern became a joke. In 1773, he was in the Cambridge jail several months for debt, during which time he was writing piteous appeals to Judge Danforth to stand his friend; asking for sympathy and aid. He was a poor, weak, lame man. His place was bought of his creditors by Lydia Mulliken in 1774, but she did not acquire a clear title for a couple of years on account of claims against one of the heirs of the estate, Dan Raymond.





On John's release from jail, Mrs. Mulliken allowed him to occupy the old house. She lived opposite on the South side of the road. Her house was burnt April 19, 1775.

On the night of the 18th of April, Sergeant Munroe had to attend on Hancock and Adams, and on the 19th, he still more important duties to perform. John Raymond was asked to come over the help out. He was unmolested till the soldiers came back from Concord, humiliated and enraged. They went into the shop and were becoming crazy drunk from the liquor in the barrels, when the officer smashed the barrels to let the liquor run off. The soldiers entered the bar-room and demanded more drink. A gun went off, and you can see the bullet-hole in the ceiling. John was terrified and sought escape through this outer back door, and was shot. He was an infirm, debilitated, inoffensive man.

The soldiers set fire to the tavern and also to the house in which the Bonds were living, where Mr. Tyler's house is. But both fires were put out. I asked him about the Bond house and he said, "I never could understand that. The Bonds were living there for years, and yet as far as I know, it belonged to my grandfather." It is possible, that it was the potash works made habitable.

You have seen from the deeds that there was first a little dwelling on this tavern land, built between Nov. 10th, 1693 and 1697. In 1719, the little building had become an ell on the south side of a new and larger house. The new main part faced the street as the building does now. The ell was behind the easterly part. The back-door of the bar-room was an outer door. And the shop was back of the bar-room, separate from the house. At a later period the shop was pushed up against the house and incorporated into it and the whole was remodelled into its present shape.





As I have ventured to write that the boundaries as given in a couple of the tavern deeds was wrong in describing Joshua Bond and John Mason's land as on the west and southwest, I will describe what that land was, and show where it lay in reference to the Munroe Tavern land. The Sanderson land was John Mason's land, and seems to me to be rather a little east of south in reference to the tavern land.

In Midd. Deeds, Book 17-115, is a conveyance of Nov. 3, 1703, from Edward Emerson of Chelmsford, esquire, to John Mason of Cambridge, tanner, of 20 acres at the Farms. John Mason on the Northwest; Francis Bowman south west; Southeast by Emerson, by a direct line from Bowman to Russell's land; being as wide upon Bowman's line as upon Russell's line, and with John Russell on the northeast.

This was the upper portion of the Golden Moore or John Adams farm, which in a general way reached from Independence Avenue to near Tower's driveway. Mason's hollow is a part of this Mason lot.

In Book 17-114, dated December 6th, 1714, is a deed from Joseph Estabrook to John Mason, tanner, of fourteen acres, bounded East by John Adams farm; S.E. by Francis Bowman; N.E. by Isaac Johnson; and N.W. by the highway.

Likewise, a tract of land on the other side of the road, opposite said fourteen acres, containing six acres; bounded East by John Adams' land and John Russell's land; Northeast by Captain Cooke's, Rolph's or Roe's; and West by land or meadows of said Estabrook. South on said way as it is now found.

The above fourteen acres is the Estabrook land lying south of the road, and I should think reaches from the Munroe Tavern land about to Tower's driveway. And the six acres was on the other side of the road.





Now look at the Emerson deed of 1753, which has John Mason on the northwest; when by the date of the Estabrook deed, Mason did not get that land till 1714. These are the dates given in the deeds. I made a special visit to the Registry to see if I had them right.

How shall we explain this? This may be how it happened. John  
 Sarah Mason  
 Mason's aunt married the Rev. Joseph Estabrook of Concord. It was his money that bought the Estabrook land, though the deed was made out to Joseph Estabrook of Hingham, his son, in November 1693. The Reverend gentleman had a high-handed way of treating deeds as of little account, and though this title was in his son, Joseph, of Hingham, the father on the death of his son Benjamin, gave one-fourth of the land to Benjamin's widow. Perhaps he sold or gave these lower twenty acres to his nephew, John Mason; and his son Joseph's deed of 1714 confirmed the transfer. There was a money consideration in the deed. I do not remember what it was.

It looks as if John Mason had the upper portion of his land, the Estabrook part, before the Emerson deed of the lower part, Mason's Hollow, in 1703, but had no deed of it. John was married to Elizabeth Spring on Oct. 18th, 1699, and we may guess that his house was built about 1699 or 1700. He was born in 1677.

You will notice that Captain Cooke's great farm touched the six acres on the northeast. It was bought by Rolph; and William Munroe and his family purchased at least 150 acres of it from Rolph's heirs or assigns.

I see that the Vital Statistics of Lexington and the Genealogies of the town say that John Mason's father lived in Lexington, and had six children there. Paige, in his History of Cambridge, says their home was in that part of Cambridge later called Newton; and Bond also has Newton as their residence, and in regard to this family, Bond said he had the help of T. W. Harris, who was of the Mason family and had prepared an elaborate





genealogy of it.

If the Mason family were living in Lexington before 1700, where did they reside?

I notice that Estabrook's deed of 1714 has Isaac Johnson on the North east; but Johnson bought in 1697 and sold to John Comee in 1699. This implies that Mason bought of Estabrook before 1699.

On the 12th of February, 1747, John Mason, tanner, of Lexington, sold to Joshua Bond, tailor, of Lexington, one acre, sixteen rods of land in Lexington, bounded northeast by the Concord road, Northwest by John Buckman to the stone-wall above the orchard, and then by said wall to a heap of stones. Then by said Mason from said heap of stones at the southeast corner to an elm tree, then by a heap of stones by the garden. The grantor in this deed was the son of the John Mason who bought of Estabrook. He died in 1739.

Joshua Bond's father, John Bond of Watertown, had married Sarah (Mason) Chamberlin, and Joshua was a cousin of the man who sold him the land.

Joshua Bond, the tailor, on April 23rd, 1765, sold to John Pigeon of Boston, one acre, 16 rods of land, bounded northeast by the highway to Concord; northwest by John Buckman so far as the stone-wall above the orchard; southwest and southeast by John Mason, being the same premises conveyed to me by John Mason in 1747.

Joshua Bond's son, Joshua, at the time of the fight was living in a house on the spot where Mr. Tyler's house is now, a little above the Munroe tavern. It was set on fire by the British but not completely burned and was renovated, and the Bond girls, daughters of this later Joshua, lived there in the early part of the 19th century. They were tailoresses.





William Munroe said he never understood about that house. It apparently did not belong to the Bonds. He thought that his grandfather and father simply allowed them to live in it. It was not much of a house. I could not find that the Bonds owned it; and thought it might have been the old potash works of John Buckman and Edmund Munroe, altered over a little, and made habitable.

On April 23rd, 1765, John Pigeon of Boston sold to Jonathan Harrington, Philip Russell and Benjamin Merriam a message or trust of land, 1 acre 16 rods, bounded northeast on the Concord road; northwest on John Buckman, as far as the stone-wall above the orchard, Southwest and Southeast by John Mason, being the same message and land conveyed by John Mason in 1747.

The term message has practically the same meaning as dwelling-house. In these old deeds, if there was a dwelling on a piece of land conveyed, it was referred to definitely. Neither Mason nor Bond mention a dwelling or message; but Pigeon says, "the same message and land conveyed by Mason in 1747."

If you take his word for it, the dwelling was there in 1747. On the other hand, having used the term once in the deed, he may simply have used them a second time. You have already seen in the deed from Estabrook to Mason that these deeds are not accurate.

This lot of land is the Sam Sanderson place occupied by him and his young wife on the 19th of April, 1775. She was the daughter of William Munroe, who lived over in Scotland, I think where the original William's house was, near the corner of Woburn Street (the road to Doe's) and Lowell Street (the way to Cooke's). She ran over to her father's that day and when she came back found a wounded British soldier in her bed and gave him a





"divilish honing." He was afraid she would poison him. She spoke broad Scotch in 1852.

There is no conveyance of this place to Sanderson on record, but he was married in 1772 and was living there in 1775. He was a cabinet maker.

In Book 95, p. 230, is a conveyance by Samuel Sanderson to Samuel Downing of a dwelling house, shop and barn, and one and a half acres of land, bounded North by the County Road, West by Captain William Munroe; every other way by John Mason.

The descriptions in the Sanderson house deeds are not bad, so far as points of the compass are concerned; and do not agree with some of them in Munroe tavern deeds.

Elijah Sanderson was living with his brother Sam at the time of the fight. He was learning the cabinet trade of him. Elijah owned a gun. At the time of the fight, Elijah ran to the house to get his gun, but Sam had it.

Elijah moved to Salem and did beautiful cabinet work. He sent ventures of it to Spain and France. That may seem absurd, but E. A. Mulliken had some beautiful samples of his work which delight the eye. Elijah's ventures sold readily in France and Spain.

1871

1. The first of the three main branches of the  
theory of the mind is the theory of the  
senses. This theory is concerned with the  
processes by which the mind receives  
information from the outside world. It  
includes the study of the organs of sense,  
the nature of the stimuli which they receive,  
and the manner in which the mind interprets  
these stimuli. The second main branch of  
the theory is the theory of the emotions.  
This theory is concerned with the processes  
by which the mind experiences feelings and  
passions. It includes the study of the  
causes of emotions, the nature of the  
emotions themselves, and the manner in  
which they influence the mind. The third  
main branch of the theory is the theory  
of the intellect. This theory is concerned  
with the processes by which the mind  
acquires knowledge and forms judgments.  
It includes the study of the sources of  
knowledge, the nature of the ideas which  
the mind forms, and the manner in which  
the mind combines these ideas to form  
judgments. The theory of the mind is  
thus a comprehensive system of knowledge  
which includes the study of the senses,  
the emotions, and the intellect.

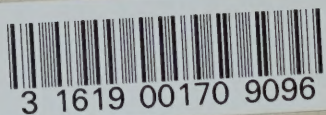












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